CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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VHP, BAJRANG DAL protest near B'desh High Commission turns chaotic

Protests by VHP and Bajrang Dal over a Hindu man's lynching in Bangladesh triggered clashes with Delhi Police

NEW DELHI

Chaos unfolded outside the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi on Tuesday when hundreds of protesters linked to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal clashed with the police while protesting the lynching of a Hindu man in Bangladesh.

Waving saffron flags and raising slogans, the demonstrators attempted to march towards the high commission, breaching several barricades despite tight security arrangements. Anticipating the protest call given by the VHP, authorities had reinforced security in the high-security zone from early morning.

Police officials said extensive precautions were taken, including the deployment of nearly 15,000 personnel and the establishment of three layers of security to prevent protesters from reaching the diplomatic premises.

According to an officer, the crowd was stopped around 800 metres away from the Bangladesh High Commission.

As part of crowd-control measures, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses were stationed on key roads to block the movement of protesters. Despite this, tensions remained high as demonstrators waved banners and placards condemning the Bangladesh government. One placard read, "Hindu rakt ki ek ek boond ka hisaab chahiye" ("Each drop of Hindu blood must be accounted for").

The protest was sparked by the killing of 25-year-old Dipu Chandra Das, a garment factory worker, who was lynched on December 18 in Baluka, Mymensingh, Bangladesh. Police said Das was first assaulted by a mob outside the factory and later hanged from a tree. His body was reportedly left near the Dhaka–Mymensingh Highway and later set on fire. Protesters demanded strict action against those responsible for the killing, urging both the Indian and Bangladesh governments to ensure justice.

Anti-B'desh protests erupt near Deputy High Commission

Hundreds of supporters of a pro-Hindutva outfit, protesting the alleged attack on minorities in the neighbouring nation, tried to march to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission here on Tuesday afternoon and clashed with the police when they were stopped by the personnel in uniform. Police resorted to baton charge to disperse the protestors after they breached barricades, both human and iron guard rails, in their attempts to move closer to the Deputy High Commission office at Beckbagan in central Kolkata.

Vijay Hazare Trophy matches in CoE, not Chinnaswamy

BENGALURU

Cricket fans in Bengaluru are set for disappointment as Vijay Hazare Trophy matches will not be held at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium after authorities denied permission to use the venue. As a result, all scheduled matches, including those featuring former India captain Virat Kohli, have been shifted to the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) on the outskirts of the city, near Kempegowda International Airport.

The tournament will begin on December 24, with Delhi taking on Andhra Pradesh in the opening match. The fixture is significant as it will see star players Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant in action. Delhi are competing in Elite Group D and will also face Gujarat in subsequent matches at the new venue.

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) had sought approval from the state government to host the Vijay Hazare Trophy matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium without spectators. Following this request, a committee headed by Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao was formed to assess the feasibility of holding matches behind closed doors.

There is a committee constituted by the home minister which will look into it. Everything will be done as per the recommendations of the committee.

—Siddaramaiah, K'taka CM

Delhi is scheduled to play Andhra Pradesh on December 24 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said a committee constituted by the Home Minister would examine the issue and take a decision based on its recommendations. Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara confirmed that the committee was set up to review permissions related to conducting cricket matches at the stadium.

Major cricket events at the Chinnaswamy Stadium have remained suspended since a tragic stampede occurred outside the venue during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory celebrations on June 4, which claimed 11 lives. The incident has led to stricter scrutiny over safety and permissions for events at the stadium, resulting in the relocation of the Vijay Hazare Trophy matches.

Kuldeep Sengar granted bail in 2017 Unnao rape case

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted bail to former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case, suspending his life imprisonment sentence while his appeal remains pending. However, the relief does not result in his immediate release, as Sengar continues to be lodged in prison while serving a separate 10-year sentence in a culpable homicide case linked to the death of the rape survivor's father. The court suspended Sengar's life sentence in the rape case and directed his release on a personal bond of ₹15 lakh, along with three sureties of the same amount. The suspension will remain effective until the disposal of his appeal. While allowing bail, the High Court imposed strict conditions. Sengar has been prohibited from entering within a five-kilometre radius of the survivor's residence and has been instructed to stay in Delhi throughout the appeal proceedings. He has also been directed not to threaten or contact the survivor or her mother, to surrender his passport to the trial court, and to report to the local police station every Monday at 10 am.

HDK requests Vande Bharat link to Coastal Karnataka

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has urged Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to introduce a Vande Bharat Express service linking Bengaluru with Karnataka's coastal districts to improve connectivity and boost regional development.

In a letter to the Railway Minister, Kumaraswamy proposed a high-speed Vande Bharat train operating from Bengaluru via Hassan, Mangaluru Junction, Udupi and Karwar, extending up to Madgaon in Goa. He said such a service would significantly benefit residents of the coastal region and align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of modern, efficient rail travel.

Kumaraswamy pointed out that electrification work along this route, including the Western Ghats section, has been successfully completed, making the corridor fully ready for fast train operations. He noted that the proposed service would greatly enhance tourism, ease travel for pilgrims visiting coastal religious centres, and benefit students and professionals who frequently commute along this route.

Highlighting Bengaluru's status as India's IT capital and Mangaluru's importance as a port city, Kumaraswamy said direct and rapid rail connectivity between Bengaluru, coastal Karnataka's commercial hubs, ports, tourist destinations and Goa would further energise economic activity. He added that the service would meet growing passenger demand, promote tourism, create employment opportunities and strengthen inter-state rail connectivity.

Man shoots wife after argument, woman dies

BENGALURU

A woman was shot dead by her husband following a heated argument near a hotel in Basaveshwaranagar on Tuesday evening. The victim, who sustained critical gunshot injuries, was rushed to a hospital but succumbed during treatment. The accused has been identified as Balamurugan, while the deceased is Bhuvaneshwari. Soon after receiving information, Magadi Road police rushed to the spot and began an investigation. The couple are natives of Salem district in Tamil Nadu. Balamurugan had been working in a software company but had recently resigned from his job. Bhuvaneshwari was employed with a bank. Police suspect that the murder was committed due to the husband's suspicion about his wife. According to the police, a divorce case between the couple was being heard in court. On the day of the incident, both had attended the court hearing and left the premises together. During this time, an argument reportedly escalated, following which Balamurugan allegedly pulled out a gun and fired at his wife.

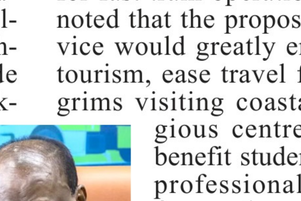
Bhuvaneshwari was immediately shifted to a hospital, where she later died. After the shooting, the accused reportedly went to a police station and surrendered. Police have also expressed suspicion that the pistol used in the crime may have been procured illegally.

Further investigation is underway.

Nearly 43 lakh voters removed in MP, 24 lakh deletions in Kerala

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday released draft electoral rolls for Madhya Pradesh and Kerala as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), revealing large-scale deletions in both states. In Madhya Pradesh, 42,74,160 names were removed, bringing the total number of voters down to 5,31,31,983 as of December. Joint Chief Electoral Officer Ram Pratap Singh Jadon said the deletions included over 8.46 lakh deceased voters, 8.42 lakh electors who were untraceable, and nearly 22.78 lakh individuals who had shifted their place of residence. The revision also led to the removal of about 2.76 lakh duplicate entries and nearly 29,900 names under miscellaneous categories. In Kerala, more than 24 lakh names were deleted following the enumeration stage of the SIR. The draft rolls now list 2,54,42,352 voters, down from 2,78,50,855 earlier. According to Chief Electoral Officer Rathan U. Kelkar, the deletions include over 6.49 lakh deceased voters, 6.45 lakh untraceable electors, and 8.16 lakh voters who had permanently relocated. Duplicate and miscellaneous entries were also removed. Objections can be filed until January 22, with final rolls due on February 21.



ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಇ.ಡಿ.ಎಲ್.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನವೀಕರಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಇಂಧನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪಿ.ಎಂ. ಕುಸುಮ್-ಬಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಪಂಪ್-ಸೆಟ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ

ರೈತರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ

ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳ ರೈತರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ/ ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ರೈತರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪಾಲಿನ ವಂತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30.12.2025** ರೊಳಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ಗಡುವು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಗಡುವಿನ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ವಿಫಲವಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಂತಹ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವಂತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಲು **www.souramitra.com** ನಲ್ಲಿ **"PAY FARMER SHARE"**ನ್ನು ಕ್ಲಿಕ್ ಮಾಡಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ / ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಣಪಾವತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು **KREDL** ನ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080-22202100 & 8095132100** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ** ರವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಇಂಧನ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಜೆ. ಜಾರ್ಜ್** ರವರು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕ್ರೆಡಲ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಹಾಗೂ ಶೃಂಗೇರಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಶಾಸಕರು ಆದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ. ಡಿ. ರಾಜೇಗೌಡ** ರವರು ಸೌರ ಘಟಕವನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

ಮಾನ್ಯ ನವ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀಕರಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಇಂಧನ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ, ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಪಡಿತರ ವಿತರಣೆ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಪ್ರಲ್ಹಾದ ಜೋಶಿ** ಯವರು ಸೌರ ಘಟಕವನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ಟಿ.ಡಿ.ರಾಜೇಗೌಡ
ಶಾಸಕರು, ಶೃಂಗೇರಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಮತ್ತು ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಇ.ಡಿ.ಎಲ್.

ಗೌರವ್ ಗುಪ್ತ, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಇಂಧನ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕೆ. ಪಿ. ರುದ್ರಪ್ಪಯ್ಯ
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಇ.ಡಿ.ಎಲ್.

ನಮ್ಮ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಪಾಡುವುದು" ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ

BESCOM | GESCOM | HESCOM | MESCOM

AIISH hosts national seminar on advances in hearing healthcare

MYSURU

The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru, in association with the Mysuru Chapter of the Indian Speech-Language and Hearing Association (MyISHA), successfully organized "Hearing Horizons 2025", a two-day RCI-approved national conference held on 20 and 21 December 2025 at AIISH, Mysuru.

Around 200 professionals, as well as 150 students and early-career audiologists from various parts of the country attended the conference, which featured plenary lectures, manufacturer-led technical sessions,

hands-on master class training, a recruitment drive, focus group discussions, and multiple parallel sessions addressing contemporary issues in hearing healthcare.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Kalyani Mandke, one of India's earliest private practitioners in audiology, highlighted the evolution of hearing care practice in India and the need for evidence-based, ethical clinical services.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. B. Mohammed Asheel from the World Health Organization (WHO), emphasized the crucial role of hearing in effective communication and highlighted that hearing aids are essential across the lifespan, supporting speech and language development in children and functional communication, and social participation, in adults and older persons.

Dr. M Puspavathi, Director of AIISH, emphasized that hearing aid fitting alone does not conclude intervention,

particularly in children. She highlighted the importance of post-fitting speech-language therapy and structured auditory habilitation, which are crucial for developing effective speech, language, and academic skills, underscoring the need for a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to hearing care. The organizers of the conference Dr. M Sandeep M and Dr. N Devi N highlighted that the primary objective of Hearing Horizons 2025 was to bridge the gap between academic institutions and private practitioners, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and uniformity in best clinical practices to improve hearing healthcare delivery across the country.

The conference brought national attention to the increasing burden of hearing loss in India, which affects individuals of all age groups and often remains undetected or untreated. It was emphasized that untreated hearing loss can significantly impact communication abilities, academic achievement, employment opportunities, mental health, and overall quality of life. A key message reiterated throughout the conference was that hearing aids are the primary and most effective intervention for permanent hearing loss. However, discussions highlighted that help-seeking behaviour remains low due to factors such as lack of awareness, social stigma, cultural beliefs, and socioeconomic barriers, resulting in delayed intervention and poorer outcomes. The conference strongly underscored the importance of early hearing evaluation and timely consultation with qualified audiologists. Audiologists play a critical role not only in accurate diagnosis and hearing aid fitting, but also in counselling individuals and families to adapt effectively to hearing loss and hearing aid use.

Participants also deliberated on the evolving role of the audiology profession in India, particularly in reaching underserved communities through outreach services and ethical clinical practice. The potential application of artificial intelligence (AI) in hearing care including hearing aid programming, and follow-up services was discussed as a promising approach to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and community-level service delivery in today's digital healthcare era.

BEYOND HUMANITY

Gundlupet Village Performs Last Rites for a Monkey with Tears and Tradition

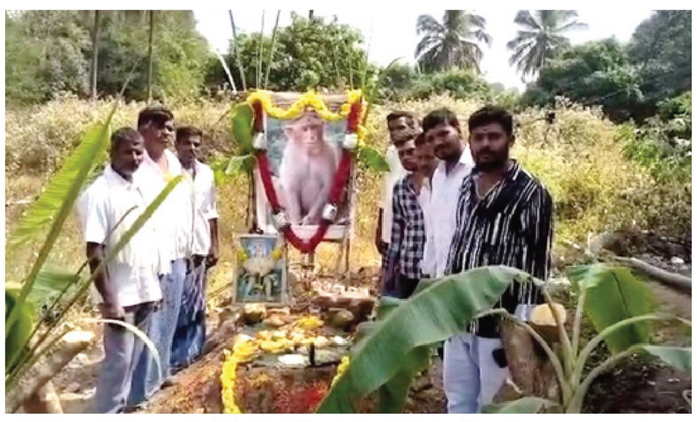
SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM, MYSURU

In an age where empathy is often confined to words, a small village in Gundlupet taluk has quietly delivered a powerful lesson on compassion—one that transcends species, boundaries and convention.

Near Hirikati village, a monkey lay grievously injured after a brutal dog attack. For hours, it struggled in pain before finally breathing its last. What followed, however, was not indifference or neglect, but an extraordinary act of humanity that has touched many hearts.

Moved by the sight of the lifeless animal, the youth of the village refused to walk away. "Life is the same for all beings," they said. "Pain does not discriminate between humans and animals." Guided by this belief, they decided to perform the monkey's last rites exactly as they would for a human being, following Hindu traditions with dignity and reverence.

The monkey's body was respectfully buried, prayers were offered, and tears were quietly shed. But their compassion did not end there. On the third day, the youth performed the milk-and-ghee ritual, and on the 11th day, they organised a full tithi ceremony. Villagers from nearby hamlets, elders, passersby and travellers were invited to partake in a memorial meal, turning grief into collective reflection.



A flex banner bearing a monkey's image and the words "Heartfelt Tribute" stood near the venue—an unusual sight, but one that carried a profound message: every life matters.

"This was not about rituals alone," said one of the village elders. "It was about reminding ourselves that compassion is the highest form of religion."

Elders guided the youth through the ceremonies, appreciating their intent to honour life rather than species. The youth used the occasion to speak about environmental protection, the fragile balance of ecosystems, and the urgent need for kindness towards animals. With incidents of animal deaths rising due to dog attacks and road accidents near forest areas, villagers said such acts are not merely symbolic but deeply necessary. In a world rushing ahead, Hirikati village paused—to mourn, to honour, and to remind society that humanity is not defined by who we care for, but by how deeply we care.

Sadvidya celebrates School's 52nd Anniversary

MYSURU

Senior scientist at DRDO, Dr. S. Sanjay, opined that it is not about earning degrees, awards, or fame, but rather about recognizing their society through their name.

Speaking after releasing the 2026 calendar and diary at the 52nd school anniversary celebration 'Shri Krishna Leelamrutha' program of Sadvidya Higher Primary English Medium School and Sadvidya High School at Kalamandir here, he said there is no other place of safety than the lap of parents. Therefore, children should not do anything that will hurt or embarrass their parents, but should emerge as good individuals in society. Teachers should be treated with respect. Therefore, whatever they achieve in life, it is because of them.

Dr Sanjay said that recognition brings true meaning. Exams are not for scoring marks. Rather, they are to strengthen one's abilities. In the past, passing SSC was considered a great achievement. Today, the competition has increased. This requires high funding. Students must focus more on learning right from school. Sadvidya School has contributed a lot to his success today.

If Mysore is a cultural city, Sadvidya School is like a center of culture. The culture and tradition in this school cannot be found anywhere else.

Senior teachers of the school were honored at the ceremony. Students performed drama, Bharata Natyam, and folk dance, Dance of the arts, yoga dance, drama and dance performances of mythological stories, as well as musical and dance programs were held.

The president of the institution, Prof. M.S.K. Narahari Babu, secretary M.D. Gopinath, vice-president S. Balaji, joint secretary K.N. Phanish, headmaster, teachers, parents and students were present.

Share your kids future in sports: Ex-MUDA chairman

MYSORE

H.V.Rajeev, chairman of Pramati Educational Institutions and former chairman of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) said there are some parents and students who think only about employment but beyond that there is possibility to shape your life itself through sports.

Speaking at the inauguration of the annual sports meet of the institutions here on Tuesday, he said the school has been promoting the students to take part in kho-kho, kabaddi, and badminton and participate in the national level. The parents who have gathered here to see the performance of their wards must encourage their children even more, follow them and support them so that they make a name in national and international arenas.

Rajeev said to continuously maintain physical fitness, they must involve children in such sports activities at a very young age. If they have already involved them, they have full confidence that they will be encouraged to the hilt. The school will ensure that more and more children get opportunities at the national level and take steps towards building a system that shapes their future.

Social service is true religion, MCCI prez

MYSURU

Serving society is the true religion and that is the reason the saying "Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah" holds meaning, said K.B. Lingaraju, President of the Mysuru Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In view of the severe cold prevailing across the state over the past week due to cold winds, KMPK Charitable Trust, based in Belavatta village of the city, organised a programme in which sweaters were distributed to children of the Savi Nenapu Foundation Seva Ashrama, along with creating awareness about health.

Speaking on the occasion, K.B. Lingaraju appreciated the continuous service activities of KMPK Charitable Trust.

He said that the trust has been distributing blankets to the homeless and elderly across Mysuru city for the past 15 days, and that its initiative to now provide quality sweaters to underprivileged children is truly commendable. People must pay greater attention to their health during the cold season.

Social worker Uttanahalli Shivanna said the service and contributions they make to society during their lifetime remain permanent. Therefore, everyone should engage in meaningful social service.

Vinay Kumar, President of the Karnataka Hitarakshana Vedike, opined that the service, charity and religious acts they perform in one way or another protect their families.

Power theft: 31 Cases Booked, ₹2.17 Lakh Fine Imposed

MYSURU

Officials of the Vigilance Squad of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) have carried out a successful enforcement drive against illegal power connections, registering 31 cases and imposing fines amounting to ₹2.17 lakh. During the mass operation conducted within the CESC limits, officers and staff of the CESC Vigilance Squad initiated action against individuals who had obtained electricity connections unauthorisedly, thereby causing financial loss to the corporation.

As part of the operation, vigilance officers and staff from the CESC jurisdictions of Mysuru, Hassan, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts were divided into eight teams. These teams conducted inspections in various installations located in areas such as Ekalavya Nagar, Bamboo Bazaar, Ittigegudu and other localities within Mysuru district.

Sangolli Rayanna statue unveiled in Hunsur

HUNSUR

In Gavadagere Hobli, Shiranahalli village of Hunsur taluk, the bronze statue of Sangolli Rayanna was unveiled by former MLA H.P. Manjunath.

Speaking on the occasion, he urged the youth of the taluk to become fully educated and to think seriously about their future and life goals. He recalled that during his tenure as an MLA, he had made his MLA office available for educational purposes, stating that it remains a matter of pride for him. On the occasion, Nataraj Swamiji of Gavadagere Math, Sambasada Shiva Swamiji of Madalli Ukkina Kante Math, Rajashekar, State President of Sangolli Rayanna Yuva Garjane, Dr. Lohith, Administrator of Kaveri Specialist Hospital, Shiva Shankar, State AHINDA President, Basavaraj Gowda, Vice President of the District Kuruba Community, former Zilla Panchayat member Amit Devaretti, Surendra, and others were present.

Handicrafts are integral part of human existence: Ex-MLA

MYSURU

Handicrafts and fine arts are not merely hobbies; they are an integral part of human existence, said former Krishnaraja MLA M.K. Somashekar.

Speaking at the inauguration of the "Kala Sambhrama," organized by the Fine Arts and Handicrafts Sub-Committee at the premises of the Karnataka Exhibition Authority, he said the credit for bringing innovation to the Karnataka Exhibition Authority goes to the Karnataka Exhibition Authority Chairman Ayub Khan. The KEA has witnessed unprecedented development in its history. Ayub Khan, during his tenure, utilized the opportunity given to him to transform the Authority into a center of public attraction through innovation. By forming five to six sub-committees and appointing more members, an excellent platform has been provided for women. Handicraft artisans and fine art exhibitors from various parts of the state have come forward to showcase their talents. Handicrafts and fine arts are not just hobbies; they are an essential part of human existence and support culture. Moreover, they also contribute to the economy.

MP's Yaduveer's Efforts: Govt gives permission for tobacco sales

MYSURU

The efforts of Mysuru–Kodagu Lok Sabha MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar in bringing to the notice of the Central Government the problems faced by tobacco growers and issues related to the sale of tobacco in the Mysuru–Kodagu parliamentary constituency have borne fruit, with the Central Government issuing a notification permitting the sale of tobacco.

According to a press release, the MP stated that he had met the concerned Union Ministers, senior officials and officials of the Tobacco Board, urging them to take decisions favourable to tobacco growers. These representations have now received an appropriate response. Permission has been granted to sell the surplus FCV tobacco produced by registered and licensed growers at auction platforms authorised by the Tobacco Board. Yaduveer explained that restrictions imposed under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, have been relaxed to facilitate the disposal of Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco through the Tobacco Board's authorised auction platforms. As per the notification, for FCV tobacco produced during the 2025–26 season, each registered grower will have to contribute Re. 1 per kilogram and 5 per cent of the sale proceeds to the Tobacco Fund.

St. Philomena's Cathedral Dazzles in a Sea of Lights Ahead of Christmas

MYSURU

As Christmas celebrations draw near, the majestic St. Philomena's Cathedral—one of Asia's tallest and most iconic churches—has been transformed into a spectacular vision of light and splendour, captivating residents and visitors alike. Final touches are being given to the grand illumination of the cathedral, marking the beginning of the festive season in the heritage city of Mysuru.

Built in 1936 during the reign of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, the Neo-Gothic architectural marvel, inspired by Germany's famed Cologne Cathedral, stands tall and radiant, its twin spires glowing brilliantly against the night sky. Thousands of decorative lights meticulously trace the cathedral's towering façade, accentuating its elegant arches, stained-glass windows and intricate detailing.

As dusk descends, the illuminated cathedral creates a magical ambience, evoking awe and reverence among devotees and tourists who gather in large numbers to witness the transformation. The soft golden and vibrant hues cascading over the white stone structure lend the church a heavenly aura, symbolising hope, peace and joy—the essence of Christmas.

The illumination work is being carried out with great care to preserve the cathedral's architectural integrity, while enhancing its grandeur. Special lighting arrangements highlight the 175-foot twin spires, the grand nave and the cross-shaped structure, making the cathedral a glowing beacon visible from afar.

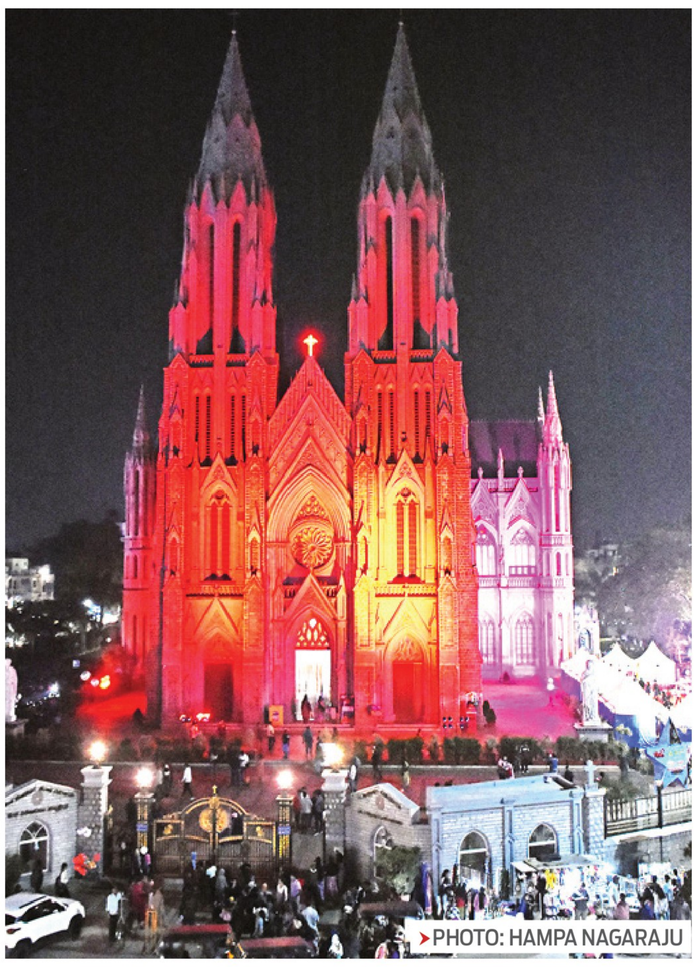


PHOTO: HAMPA NAGARAJU

Inside, preparations are also underway for Christmas prayers and services, with the serene interiors adorned to complement the festive mood. The stained-glass panels depicting scenes from the life of Jesus Christ shimmer beautifully as light filters through them, adding to the spiritual experience.

St. Philomena's Cathedral, which can accommodate nearly 800 worshippers, is not just a place of prayer but a symbol of Mysuru's rich cultural and religious harmony. With its stunning illumination, the cathedral once again becomes the centre of Christmas celebrations, spreading festive cheer and drawing countless visitors to the city.

As Mysuru readies itself for Christmas, the glowing silhouette of St. Philomena's Cathedral stands as a radiant reminder of faith, tradition and timeless beauty.

Five Tigers on the Prowl Near: Forest Dept Launches Fresh Operation

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM, MYSURU

After a brief lull, panic has returned to villages near Gundlupet taluk in Chamarajanagar district with the movement of five tigers — a tigress and her four cubs — captured on thermal cameras installed in the forest fringes.

The alarming development has prompted the Forest Department to launch a fresh capture operation, prioritising the safety of villagers living near forest boundaries.

The tigers were last spotted near Anemaduvina Kere, close to Nanjedevanapura village, where CCTV cameras recorded them roaming through a sisal plantation belonging to a local farmer on Friday evening. The footage, showing the big cats moving together confidently, has since gone viral, heightening fear among residents. "We are living in constant fear. Once the sun sets, no one dares to step outside," said Ramesh, a farmer from Nanjedevanapura. "Our cattle are at risk, our children are scared, and farming has come to a standstill. We want the Forest Department to act fast." Forest officials confirmed that tiger movement had been noticed in the same area earlier as well. Though a capture operation was conducted then, no animals were trapped. Now, with reports confirming that five tigers are moving together, the situation has become more serious.

Following the latest sighting, Assistant Conservators of Forests and senior officials from the BRT Tiger Reserve rushed to the spot. The area was thoroughly inspected using CCTV footage, drone surveillance and ground patrols to track the movement of the animals.

"Based on the evidence available, it is clear that a tigress with four cubs is roaming outside the forest limits," said a senior forest official. "Our immediate concern is to prevent any human-animal conflict. All necessary precautions are being taken."

Acting on the directions of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, BRT Tiger Reserve, two trained elephants — Lakshman and Eshwar — were brought by lorry from the Dubare Elephant Camp. The elephants were allowed to rest on Monday and will be deployed for the capture operation starting Tuesday.

To ensure public safety and avoid crowds, Section 144 has been imposed in and around the affected villages. The order, issued by Chamarajanagar Tahsildar B. Girija, prohibits gatherings, celebrations, processions and unnecessary movement between 6 am and 6 pm on December 22 and 23.

"We urge people to cooperate fully," the Tahsildar said. "For their own safety, residents should stay indoors and avoid moving alone, especially in agricultural fields." Villagers recalled that about two months ago, tigers had entered farmlands in Kalpur village, just three kilometres away, killing two cows. Despite a week-long operation involving trained elephants, the tiger could not be captured then.

"This time, the number has increased to five. The fear is unimaginable," said Lakshmamma, a woman farmer. "We cannot even step into our fields to harvest crops."

Local MLA C. Puttarangashetty, who visited the spot after learning about the sightings, instructed forest officials to make all necessary arrangements to capture the tigers at the earliest.

"Our priority is the safety of villagers as well as the protection of wildlife," a forest officer said. "We appeal for patience and cooperation until the operation is successfully completed."

Ensure every patient returns home healthy after treatment: Pramodadevi

MYSURU

Assuring continued commitment to public healthcare, Pramodadevi Wadiyar, a member of Mysore Royal Family said that free and improved treatment facilities would be strengthened further for the benefit of the public.

Speaking after unveiling the lifesize photo of Sri Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar at the Krishna Rajendra Hospital here on Tuesday, she described the medical college campus as an institution built on the legacy of earlier generations and called upon all stakeholders to actively contribute to its growth.

Pramodadevi Wadiyar said the emotional bond of doctors and staff with the institution would continue in the future, and expressed happiness at being part of the programme, pledging to carry forward the legacy of the founders.

Responding to complaints regarding shortage of technicians, he said the issue had already been raised in the Legislative Assembly and assured that corrective steps would be taken at the earliest.

Emphasising inclusive healthcare, she said the hospital should evolve into a true public institution where everyone gets an opportunity for treatment, adding that the aim was to ensure that every patient returns home healthy after receiving care.

Chamaraja Constituency MLA K.Harish Gowda, MLC Dr D Thimmaiah, Dr Nayaz Pashad, RMO, KR Hospital, Dr K.R.Dakshayini, dean and director, MMC&RI, Dr J.P.Shobha, Medical Superintendent, KR Hospital and others were present.

Farmer escapes tigers attack near Hunsur

HUNSUR

A Hunsur farmer had a narrow escape when two tigers tried to attack him at Sindhenahalli village in taluk on Tuesday.

According to sources, while tractor driver and farmer Varshith Gowda of Sindhenahalli village in Hunsur taluk was ploughing the land belonging to a person named Zameer at Negathuru, on the fringes of Nagarahole National Park, two tigers suddenly ran towards the field and leapt onto the tractor. The two tigers attacked, but Varshith Gowda narrowly escaped unharmed, it is reported.

On seeing the tigers, Gowda shouted loudly and drove the tractor erratically, which startled the tigers. The frightened tigers then ran away from the spot and attacked a cow that was grazing in a neighbouring field.

At that moment, Varshith Gowda drove the tractor towards the tigers, causing them to panic and flee back into the nearby forest. Due to the tiger attack, the cow sustained injuries to its neck. Although the Forest Department was immediately informed, no officials arrived promptly. Even after informing the Hunsur Forest Department about the tiger sighting, and despite assurances that staff would be sent, only two guards arrived after a long delay. Angered by this, the villagers expressed their outrage against the Forest Department.

Khandre orders constant monitoring of a tigress

BENGALURU

Meanwhile, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre directed officials to first install cage traps and, if necessary, tranquilise and capture the five tigers spotted at Nanjedevpura in Chamarajanagar district, and safely relocate them to a secure habitat.

Chairing an emergency meeting via video conference on Tuesday, he said that as the tigers have been sighted on private land, local residents are living in fear. Officials must take all necessary steps to prevent any loss of precious human life, while also ensuring that no harm comes to the wildlife. "There is a need for continuous monitoring of the tigers' movement, using drone cameras and thermal cameras to obtain accurate information on their location. If the tigers move towards villages, villagers must be informed immediately and forest department teams should be deployed promptly to avert any untoward incidents.

Saying that an operation involving five tigers is not an easy task, the minister cautioned senior officials to ensure that the animals do not attack members of the operation team. Incidents like the one at Badagalapura, where a person was attacked during a tiger rescue operation, should not be repeated. All necessary equipment for the rescue operation be arranged, along with the deployment of additional veterinarians and sharpshooters, and that additional elephants be brought in immediately if required.

DR ANITA PRASAD BAGS ATAL AWARD

MYSURU

On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Atal Samman Samaroh 2025 was held in New Delhi, marking a moment of collective remembrance, responsibility, and national reflection.

Dr. Anita Prasad was conferred with the Atal Gaurav Award on this occasion.

She is the only recipient from the state of Karnataka to receive this honour this year. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Prasad described the recognition not as a personal achievement, but as a shared responsibility rooted in the values upheld by Atal ji throughout his public life. "Atal ji demonstrated that leadership can be decisive without being harsh, and compassionate without being weak. His commitment to dialogue, institutional integrity, and ethical governance remains deeply relevant to India today"..

The event was attended by eminent dignitaries including Satyanarayan Jatiya, Gita Shakya, Bhagirathi Chaudhary, Avinash Rai Khanna, Dr. A. C. Rajesh Ojha, B. L. Diwakar, and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, along with Padma awardees, social leaders, and citizens from across the country.

She also expressed gratitude to the Atal Foundation, its trustees, leadership, and organising team for ensuring that the remembrance remained rooted in values rather than symbolism.

'Fit Mysuru' Walkathon on Jan 11: UoM VC Prof Loknath

MYSURU

With the objective of transforming the cultural city of Mysuru into a healthy, clean, green and safe city, the 'Fit Mysuru' Walkathon will be organised on January 11, 2026, said Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mysore, Prof. K. N. Lokanath.

Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday, he said that the Fit Mysuru Walkathon is being organised jointly by GSS Group of Institutions, Mysuru Gym Association, and the University of Mysore to create a healthy atmosphere in the city. The 5-km walkathon will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2026, from 6 am to 8 am. The walkathon will begin from the Open Air Theatre at Manasagangothri, and it is expected that more than 10,000 people will participate, he said.

Theme and Objectives

Through the Fit Mysuru Walkathon, awareness will be created among the public about a healthy lifestyle under the themes Healthy Mysuru, Clean Mysuru, Green Mysuru and Safe Mysuru. The programme also aims to raise public awareness about cleanliness, environmental conservation and public safety. He added that active participation of citizens is crucial to make the walkathon a success.

Srihari Dwarakanath, Head of the GSS Group of Institutions, said that the Fit Mysuru Walkathon, which began on a small scale about one-and-a-half years ago, received a very good response with the cooperation of various organisations. With the intention of conducting the programme on a larger scale, he said that all elected representatives from the Mysuru region, key district administration officials, and prominent Mysureans such as Usha Hegde and former Indian cricketer Javagal Srinath will participate in the walkathon on January 11.

On the occasion, posters of the Fit Mysuru Walkathon were released, and the QR code–based registration process for participants was also launched.

"The Yoga Day celebrations already conducted in Mysuru were organised very successfully. In the same manner, the Fit Mysuru Walkathon must also be made a success. For this, the University of Mysore is extending its complete cooperation. Along with mobilising students, everyone must join hands for this programme."

— M. K. Savitha, Registrar, University of Mysore

Through the Fit Mysuru Walkathon, the message 'Come, let us build our city together' will be conveyed to the people of the city. Several organisations have joined hands for the Fit Mysuru programme, and just like the Yoga programme, the Fit Mysuru Walkathon is expected to be a large-scale success.

— Srihari, Head of the GSS Group of Institutions, Mysuru.

QUICK READ

Bike rider collides with electric pole

BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a bike rider died after his bike rammed into an electric pole near Kadabagere Cross in Bengaluru North taluk.

The deceased was identified as Devendra, 25, a resident of Gulbarga. It is alleged that the locals had put unscientific humps on the road to prevent motorists from driving at high speeds.

Devendra, who was riding his bike late at Monday night, lost control of his bike and hit an electric pole and died of severe head injuries.

The body is being sent for post-mortem at Nelamangala Civil Hospital and a case has been registered at Madanayakanahalli police station.

Buffer roads will create history for city traffic: DKS

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the construction of buffer roads along the Raja Canal in the Greater Bengaluru Authority limits. Speaking to the media after the meeting, he said, these buffer roads will create history for Bengaluru as 300 km of roads will be constructed in the first phase. A long road has been identified for construction. As the minister explained, we have taken the initiative to effectively control the traffic congestion in the city by constructing roads in the buffer zone adjacent to lakes and canals. This will bring a paradigm shift in the transport system of Bengaluru.

Hit and run, bike rider killed

BENGALURU

A bike rider was killed in a road accident near Chikkagollarahatti on Magadi Road on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The bike rider was killed when the tipper collided with the lorry and the driver fled with the lorry. The deceased has been identified as Dhananjay Kumar Mehta (35), a native of Bihar. He worked as a carpenter and lived in Tavarakere. The accident took place when he was on his way to Gollarahatti Road. A case has been registered at Madanayakanahalli police station and a search operation is on to trace the absconding lorry driver.

High Command in retreat, K'taka Cong caught in a vortex of political anarchy

The power-sharing dispute between CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar festers, the Congress high command's studied silence has deepened the crisis in Karnataka

BY KS RAJAMANNAR, BENGALURU

The confusion surrounding the transfer of power has reached a critical peak and continues to assume new forms with each passing day. Yet, a solution remains a mirage. Even as political infighting intensifies in Bengaluru, the powers that be in Delhi have chosen silence, behaving as though the issue has nothing to do with them.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has categorically stated on the floor of the Assembly that there has been no decision or agreement on a transfer of power. In contrast, D.K. Shivakumar insists that an agreement does exist between him and Siddaramaiah and that it has the approval of the high command. Whose version is true? Expectations that clarity would emerge after the breakfast meeting held at D.K. Shivakumar's residence, reportedly at the high command's behest, have also proved false. Given the present situation, the continued silence of the high command, and the stubbornness of both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, there appears little chance that the crisis will be resolved anytime soon.

There is no real possibility of the two leaders sitting together and settling the matter amicably. Repeated trips to Delhi have yielded nothing. The stature of both the party and the government is steadily declining.

The obstinacy of one leader determined not to relinquish power and the other equally determined to obtain it sends a clear signal that the Congress may not return to power in the next election. It increasingly appears that their primary objective is merely to hold on to power for as long as possible. Had DK Shivakumar enjoyed the clear support of a substantial number of MLAs, the story might have been different. With the BJP in the state currently weak, the Chief Minister appears confident that no one can unsettle him, repeatedly signalling, in softer terms, I am the Chief Minister now and will remain so until the high command says otherwise.

As the saying goes, when two fight, a third may benefit, raising the possibility that a third person could eventually secure the chief minister's post. By then, however, the damage may be irreparable, with little reason to believe the future will improve.

Guest lecturer arrested for stealing gold and money

BENGALURU

Basavanagudi police have arrested a woman on charges of stealing gold and cash from people who came to auspicious events posing as relatives. The arrested accused is Revathi, a resident of KR Puram. She works as a guest lecturer. 262 grams of gold ornaments worth a total of Rs 32 lakh have been seized, the police said. The accused Revathi works as a guest lecturer in Kannada language at a private college in Bellandur throughout the week. On Sundays, she would go to places where auspicious events were held and talk to those she met there as if they were relatives. She would then find the rooms where the jewellery and money were kept, and when no one was there.

Vehicle parking on roadside causing problems

BENGALURU

Complaints have been received from the public that the parking of two-wheelers on both sides of the parallel road of Kengeri Railway Station is causing inconvenience to the public and other vehicles.

Passengers traveling from Kengeri Railway Station to Mysore, Ramanagara, Channapatna, Maddur and those going to work in Bangalore City park on the road.

If the traffic police had issued fines to those who park in violation of the rules, this would not have happened. Due to the failure of the traffic police personnel to take proper action, vehicles are parked on both sides, causing inconvenience to pedestrians traveling by train and motorists traveling on the road.

The railway station is approaching from Mysore Road, Kengeri, Kengeri Suburban etc. The amount of vehicle traffic on the Kengeri Railway Parallel Road has increased, due to the lack of proper road system and the narrowness of other roads, the traffic congestion is increasing day by day.

The public is parking on the road without any space at the railway station. Due to the delay in work on this road, the traffic congestion has increased and will be fixed in the coming days, said Kengeri Traffic Inspector Laxman.

In addition to this, the public has requested the Traffic Police Department to restrict the parking of two-wheelers from parking on both sides.

If traffic police personnel are deployed and vehicles are parked on one side, traffic jams can be prevented to some extent.

The public is having difficulty moving due to parking vehicles in front of private hotels in front of the railway station, and the locals expressed their anger that the hotel owners are conducting business without making parking arrangements, which is causing traffic congestion.

The work on the railway parallel road has been progressing at a snail's pace for about months. Locals complained that the negligence of BBMP officials has caused traffic congestion.

TOP COP INSPECTS...

Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh inspecting the seized items during the Property parade press meet at the Police Commissioner office, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ▸ CH PHOTO

Police seize ₹26.9 lakh worth narcotics in city

BENGALURU

Officers and staff of Jalahalli Police Station received credible information from an informant that unknown persons were in possession of prohibited narcotic drugs, namely Hydro Ganja and MDMA, and were selling them to customers near Kalingarao Circle, within the limits of the police station. Based on the said information, the police officers and staff rushed to the spot, conducted a raid, and secured two persons. On interrogation, both accused confessed that with the intention of earning more money, they had purchased prohibited narcotic drugs, Hydro Ganja and MDMA at a low price from an unknown person and were selling the same to customers at a higher price.

From the possession of the two accused, 247 grams of Hydro Ganja and 19 grams of MDMA were seized. The total value of the seized narcotic substances is Rs 26.9 lakh.

Both the accused were produced before the Court, remanded them to judicial custody.

Foreign national held for transporting cocaine

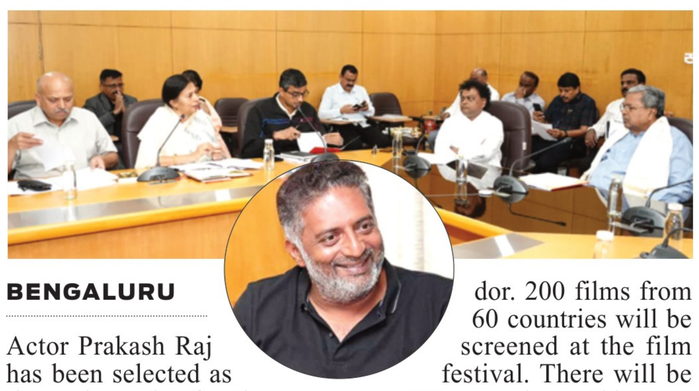
BENGALURU

Based on credible information that a foreign woman residing at Grace Trust, within the limits of Varthur Police Station, was supplying prohibited narcotic drug cocaine to known persons, the CCB Narcotics Control Wing conducted a raid. The operation was led by Police Inspector AK Rakshith along with his staff, during which one foreign woman drug peddler was secured. From her possession, 121 grams cocaine worth approximately Rs 1.20 crore, one mobile phone used for committing the offence, and other articles were successfully seized.The arrested woman is a foreign national who had come to Delhi in 2024 on a student visa claiming to pursue studies at a university. However, without enrolling in any college, she stayed in areas such as Ghatkopar (Gala Nagar), Ambawadi, and Nallasopara in Mumbai. She procured cocaine from her friend in Mumbai and, as per his instructions, transported and supplied the same to designated locations, thereby engaging in drug peddling and earning illegal money.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that she used to travel from Mumbai to Bengaluru in private buses and transport cocaine by concealing it in covers of bread and similar products to avoid detection.

Based on the place of occurrence and the complaint lodged for legal action, a case has been registered under the NDPS Act at Varthur Police Station.

Prakash Raj as ambassador for 17th International Film Festival



BENGALURU

Actor Prakash Raj has been selected as the ambassador for the 17th International Film Festival, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said. Speaking at a meeting held at the Vidhana Soudha under the leadership of CM Siddaramaiah regarding the International Film Festival, he said that the 17th International Film Festival will be held in Bengaluru from January 29 to February 6 and will be inaugurated on the grand steps of the Vidhana Soudha. I will inaugurate it myself. He said that actor Prakash Raj has been selected as the ambassador for this film festival. As decided by the committee, Prakash Raj has been selected as the ambassador. 200 films from 60 countries will be screened at the film festival. There will be 400 screenings. This year, the films shortlisted for the Oscars will be screened. In addition, films will be screened in the Tribute and Remembrance section in memory of recently departed actors Dharmendra, Sarojadevi, Umesh, Shaji N Karun, Raghu and other dignitaries. There is a plan to have a theme of women's empowerment. We will release the theme by the evening. This festival will facilitate watching all these films in one place. It will be screened on 11 screens of Cine Police in Lulu Mall. So far, 110 applications have been received and December 31 is the last date for submission of applications.

Bengaluru North Commissioner inspects Bellary Road

BENGALURU

On Tuesday morning, the Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, conducted an inspection along Bellary Road from the CBI Bus Stop to Esteem Mall and issued necessary directions to the concerned officials.

Regular cleaning of the central median on Bellary Road shall be carried out, and all necessary safety measures must be strictly adhered to during the cleaning operations to ensure public safety.

Construction debris located on the National Highway service road near Hebbal Lake shall be removed at the earliest through the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The functioning of the mechanical sweeping machine operating along the Hebbal service road was reviewed, and officials were instructed to further enhance the effectiveness of the cleaning operations.

The indoor sports complex and swimming pool at Coffee Board Layout were inspected. The Commissioner reviewed issues related to vehicle parking and directed officials to put in place appropriate arrangements.

Emphasizing priority to urban cleanliness, smooth traffic movement, and improvement of public amenities, the Commissioner directed all concerned departments to work in coordination, were the instructions issued during the inspection. During the inspection, Joint Commissioner Pallavi, Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, engineers from the Solid Waste Management Department, and other concerned staff were present.

MEMORABLE REUNION

BMC 2000 batch celebrates reunion after 25 years

BENGALURU

A batch of 150 students who joined Bangalore Medical College (BMC) in 2000 celebrated their silver jubilee (Scintilla 2.0), with 90 alumni reuniting at their alma mater. The doctors, now globally settled, reminisced about old times, fulfilling a long-held desire to reconnect. The gathering allowed them to cherish memories and relive college moments. BMC College's 2000 batch silver jubilee reunion was a blast, with alumni showcasing talents and reliving college memories. Dr MV Bhaskar, now running a multi-specialty hospital in Bengaluru, took the initiative in organizing the event, to bring classmates together. 90 doctors let loose, dancing and singing with abandon, unveiling hidden talents. Now it's time to enjoy, they declared, shaking off hesitation. The day ended with a rejuvenating resort break, recharging for more memories. Alumni shared heartfelt moments, with some serving Bangalore's medical needs while others hold top positions abroad. Medical education is very demanding, and this batch has excelled - pursuing higher education and landing top roles. Many have specialized in their areas of strength, with lady doctors even running super specialty hospitals.

Dr Asuri Krishna, Professor and Head (Surgery) at AIIMS, New Delhi, said, I met almost everyone from our batch after two to three decades. It was a wonderful moment in life. The most satisfying thing is that everyone is doing well personally and professionally. The education received at BMC played a major role in shaping our careers. Our batch is a testament to the fact that if the foundation is strong, the building constructed on it will always be strong. Not only are we all strong; we've also built beautiful lives. Our batch is a good example for those studying at BMC now.

Dr. Bhaskar MV, one of the organizers of BMC Medical College's Silver Jubilee Reunion, reflected on the event, saying, My classmates have settled worldwide, some in Australia, a few in America, more in Britain, Europe, and Gulf countries. With 25 years of experience, they're serving in high positions, heading super specialty hospitals, and making a name for themselves. Despite their success, they came to the reunion, showing gratitude and reconnecting with old friends. 25 years ago, medical education was difficult. The availability of seats was not as good as it is today. Only merit was entertained. They laid a solid foundation for us. Our roots were firmly nurtured in BMC. So much so that today we have gained enough experience and ability to create guidelines on how treatment should be done.

BMC College has upgraded its infrastructure and technology, benefiting students. However, an alumnus lamented the shift from traditional clinical skills and human touch in patient care. In our time, there was a human touch... clinical involvement was abundant," he said, noting mechanization has reduced personal care. On the flip side, he acknowledged advancements in medical studies and technology enable quicker, more accurate diagnoses and treatments. The future of medicine is great, he said optimistically.

QUICK READ

National consumer day-2025 to be celebrated today

CHITRADURGA

The District Administration of Chitradurga has organised a comprehensive programme to mark National Consumer Day-2025 on December 24 at 10 a.m. The event will be held at Valmiki Bhavan in Chitradurga city with the objective of creating awareness about consumer rights, responsibilities, and grievance redressal mechanisms. The programme is being jointly organised by multiple departments and institutions, including the Zilla Panchayat, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Legal Metrology Department, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Food Safety and Drug Administration, District Scheduled Castes Welfare Department, District Lawyers Association, and Chitradurga District Cooking Gas Distributors.

Mammography and endoscopy facilities launched

CHITRADURGA

In a significant boost to public healthcare services, mammography and endoscopy diagnostic facilities have been newly started at the District Hospital in Chitradurga. The introduction of these advanced medical services is expected to greatly benefit patients from Chitradurga district and surrounding rural areas, reducing the need for referrals to distant hospitals. Mammography, a specialised breast scanning procedure, is primarily used for the early detection and diagnosis of breast-related problems, including breast cancer. Health officials stated that early diagnosis through mammography plays a crucial role in timely treatment and improved survival rates among women.

Good Governance week workshop emphasises courtesy

Retired IAS officer Amar Narayan urged officials to serve citizens courteously during the Good Governance Week workshop

DEVANAHALLI

A strong message on empathy, accountability, and public-oriented administration was delivered during the Good Governance Week Dissemination Workshop held in Devanahalli, where senior officials and staff were urged to adopt a courteous and service-driven approach. The workshop was organised under the banner of Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur 2025 by the District Administration and Zilla Panchayat at the auditorium of the District Administration Building. Inaugurating the programme, retired IAS officer Amar Narayan emphasised that officers should always maintain a polite and respectful attitude while dealing with the public. He reminded officials that the day also coincides with Farmers' Day, celebrated across the country, and called upon officers to treat farmers with special respect. When farmers come to your office, welcome them with a smile and speak to them kindly. They are the ones who feed the nation and deserve the highest respect, he said.

Amar Narayan stressed that public servants would ultimately be remembered not for their positions but for their conduct. Quoting political thinker Edmund Burke, he said true governance ensures that even the last person in society does not suffer due to administrative negligence. He cautioned officers against working merely for publicity and urged them instead to focus on building a positive and lasting reputation through sincere service. Highlighting administrative responsibility, he remarked that it is a matter of shame if public files remain pending without justification. He underlined that it is the duty of officials to proactively provide relief to aggrieved citizens and not insist on written complaints alone. Even when a grievance is expressed verbally, respond politely and act responsibly, he advised.

Public must remain alert against cyber theft: City ASP

RAMANAGARA

With cyber-related crimes increasing at an alarming rate, City Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rajendra has urged citizens to remain vigilant and adopt precautionary measures to protect themselves from online fraud. He was speaking at an awareness programme organised to educate the public about cyber theft and digital safety. Addressing the gathering in Chitradurga, ASP Rajendra said that cyber theft cases have seen a sharp rise in recent months due to the rapid increase in online transactions, mobile banking, and digital payments. People are increasingly relying on smartphones and the internet for financial activities, but many are unaware of the risks involved. Cybercriminals are exploiting this lack of awareness, he said. Rajendra explained that fraudsters often use methods such as fake phone calls posing as bank officials, fraudulent links sent through SMS or social media, phishing emails, and fake investment schemes to trap unsuspecting victims. He cautioned the public not to share sensitive information such as OTPs, ATM PINs, passwords, or bank details with anyone, regardless of how convincing the caller may sound.

Students must develop questioning ability: KSCPCR Chairman

DEVANAHALLI

Stressing the importance of awareness and confidence among children, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) Chairman Shashidhar Kosambe said students must cultivate the habit of questioning to effectively claim their rights. He was addressing a child grievance redressal and interaction programme organised at the Devanahalli Taluk Panchayat hall. The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Department of Women and Child Development, Police Department, and the District Child Protection Unit. Officials from multiple departments participated in the initiative, which aimed to directly listen to children's concerns and create awareness about child rights and welfare mechanisms. Presiding over the event, Kosambe noted that student life is naturally filled with curiosity and interest, and children should not hesitate to ask questions or voice their problems. He emphasised that every child is entitled to health, education, and protection until the age of 18.

Tur dal procurement centres have been opened districtwide under the state support price scheme for 2025–26.

Tur Dal procurement centres launched under MSP

CHITRADURGA

The Karnataka government has commenced tur dal (pigeon pea) procurement for the 2025–26 season by opening procurement centres across Chitradurga under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. The initiative aims to ensure remunerative prices for farmers and protect them from market fluctuations.

Under the state's support price scheme, the government has fixed the MSP for tur dal at ₹8,000 per quintal. As per a decision taken by the district-level Task Force Committee, procurement will be limited to four quintals per acre from each farmer. The Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited will procure tur dal in Chitradurga city through its authorised agency, the OMEEA cooperative institution.

Procurement centres have been set up at multiple locations across the district to facilitate easy access for farmers. In Challakere taluk, procurement will be carried out at Ramajogihalli, Chikkamudure, and Meerasabihalli Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), as well as the Chalumeshwaraswamy Farmer Producer Centre in Challakere town. In Hiriyur taluk, the Eesha Farmer Producer Centre located at the APMC yard will handle procurement. Similarly, in Chitradurga taluk, tur dal will be procured at Chikkagondanahalli PACS, Sri Manjunathaswamy Farmer Producer Centre at Turuvanur, and the Town Cooperative Society in Chitradurga city. In Molakalmuru taluk, procurement centres have been established at the Kondlahalli Beelineeru Chilume Agriculture and Sericulture Farmer Producer Company and the Molakalmuru Town Cooperative Society.

Officials said that registration for tur dal procurement is mandatory. Farmers must complete registration using their Aadhaar card through biometric authentication at the designated procurement centres. Only registered farmers will be eligible to sell tur dal at the support price.

For further details and assistance, farmers can contact the secretaries of the respective cooperative societies. Contact numbers have been provided for each centre, including Ramajogihalli (9741392578), Chikkamudure (6362928198), Meerasabihalli (9686153879), Challakere (8217399538), Hiriyur (9535196763), Chikkagondanahalli (6362187408), Turuvanur (9620266826), Chitradurga (8904308894), and Kondlahalli (9901939348).

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, NORTH
Eastern Range Kalaburagi, Police Bhavan, KALABURAGI-585105
Ph.08472-263605, E-mail: igpner@ksp.gov.in

No: STS/33NER/CTRS/2025-26 Date: 23.12.2025

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ITMS SOLUTIONS FOR KALABURAGI DISTRICT WITH NECESSARY HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND NETWORKING

The Deputy Inspector General of Police, North - Eastern Range Kalaburagi invites tender in two cover system for selection of for supply, Installation and Maintenance of ITMS Solutions for Kalaburagi District with necessary Hardware, Software and Networking through Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned Public Procurement Portal.

1. Tender Reference No. and date : **No.KSP/2025-26/ind0472**, 2) Date of commencement of tender **22.12.2025,** 3) Date & Time for Pre Bid meeting: **30.12.2025 11:00** Hrs at Police Bhavan Kalaburagi, 4) Last Date & Time for submission of Tender through E-Procurment portal : **09.01.2026 at 17:00 hrs**, 5) Date and Time of opening of Technical bid : **12.01.2026 at 11:00 hrs** 6) Tentative date and Time of opening of Commercial bid : **16.01.2026 at 11:00 hrs**, 7) Amount put to Tender **Rs.1,43,20,000/-,** 8) EMD Amount : **Rs.3,00,000/-,** 9) Venue of pre-bid meeting opening of tenders & address for communication : Office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police North - Eastern Range Kalaburagi, Police Bhavan, Kalaburagi-585105,

Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender can download the bid ducuments by visiting the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Inspector General of Police, North-Easten Range Kalaburagi & Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/Kalaburagi/884/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Bharati Sanakallappa Harijan, Sannakallappa Parashurama Harijan, Parashurama Yallappa Harijan, Ishwar Parashurama Harijan, Anjana Ishwar Harijan, Shantavva Parashurama Harijan, Mallamma Fakkirappa Harijan, /MHL00260034517/ Hubli	Gp Vpc No: 94/B2, Property No : 151300300300200144, Total Measuring 190.38 Sq Mtr, Building Measuring 74.24 Sq Mtr, Bisaralli Village, Begur Gram Panchayat, Tq: Kalagatagi Dist: Dharwad, Karnataka, Pin: 581204. East-Property of Renavva D Harijan, West-Road, South-Property of Kanakappa Harijan & Yallappa B Harijan, North-Gaothana Property	16-11-2025	24-11-2025 & Rs.535190/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date: 24th December 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Actual** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name Of Borrower And Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Actual Possession
1	Shwetha U, Ootera Ravi N & Durugamma U, /MHL00480010285/ Davangare	Gundagatti, Property No. 234/245, E Swathu No. 151200401000200952, Gundagatti Village, Gundagatti Gram Panchayat, Davanagare, P.O. Gundagatti, Davanagare, Karnataka, Pin: 583137	14-08-2024 & Rs. 4,07,257/-	18-12-2025
2	Uchangamma Mathangi, Manjappa Maathngi & Jyothi N, /MHL00480011694/ Davangare	Pl.D. No. 151200401900100556, Property No. 74, Arasanalu Village, Kunchuru Grama Panchayath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 583213	15-01-2025 & Rs.3,07,335/-	18-12-2025

Date: 24th December 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hon'ble Principal Civil Judge and JMFC, Ramanagara declared the name of son of Smt. Sushmitha N. wife of Murthy M.V., residing at: Madapura Village, Mayaganahalli Post, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District as NISHANTH RAJ M.M. as per the Judgment and decree passed in O.S. No. 43/2024, dated: 16-09-2025.

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಸವನಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಲೇಟ್. ಚನ್ನಿದ್ದೇಗೌಡ ರವರ ಮಗನಾದ ಸುಮಾರು 43 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸುಳ್ಳ ಶ್ರೀ ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಬಿ.ಸಿ. ರವರು ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬಿಡದಿ–1 ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹೆಜ್ಜಾಲ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೇ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 73/2, ಹೊಸ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್. 73/13 ರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 00–05 ಗುಂಟೆ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಮಾಲೀಕರಾದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬಿಡದಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹೆಜ್ಜಾಲ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಲೇಟ್. ಚಿಕ್ಕಮುನಿಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಮಗನಾದ ಸುಮಾರು 51 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸುಳ್ಳ ಶ್ರೀ. ಅಶ್ವತ್ಥಯ್ಯ (ಆಧಾರ್ ನಂ. 3151 9437 3835), ಆದ ನಾನು ಮತ್ತು ನನ್ನ ಧರ್ಮಪತ್ನಿ ಸುಮಾರು 41 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸುಳ್ಳ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ. ಮಂಜುಳ.ಎನ್. (ಆಧಾರ್ ನಂ. 4028 5852 6625) ಆದ ನಾವುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮ ಮಕ್ಕಳಾದ 1ನೇ ಮಗಳಾದ ಸುಮಾರು 22 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸುಳ್ಳ ದಿವ್ಯಶ್ರೀ.ಎ (ಆಧಾರ್ ನಂ. 3676 5178 1720) ಮತ್ತು 2ನೇ ಮಗಳಾದ ಸುಮಾರು 20 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸುಳ್ಳ ಕಾವ್ಯಶ್ರೀ ಅಶ್ವತ್ಥಯ್ಯ (ಆಧಾರ್ ನಂ. 4432 3703 6488) ಇವರಿಂದ ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯಾರಾದರೂ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ/ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಈ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ, ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವವರು ತಮ್ಮ ದಾವೆ ಅಥವಾ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಈ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ವಿನಂತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗಧಿತ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ದಾವೆಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರು ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿವಾದ ಅಥವಾ ಹಕ್ಕು ದಾವೆಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, ಕ್ರಯದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ವಿವರ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬಿಡದಿ–1 ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹೆಜ್ಜಾಲ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೇ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್: 73/2, ಹೊಸ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್: 73/13 ರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 00–05 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ: ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ದೊಡ್ಡಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ಚಿಕ್ಕಹೊಂಬಯ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು, ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ. ಬಸವರಾಜು ರವರ ಜಮೀನು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ. ಹೊಂಬಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು.

ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ:

ನವೀನ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಹೆಚ್.ಸಿ., ವಕೀಲರು, ರಾಮನಗರ ವಕೀಲರ ಸಂಘ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಟೌನ್, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 8971355047.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.26/2025-26, Dated: 20.12.2025

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one cover system through KPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan District works as per KW-1 & 4 maximum tender amount is Rs.160.00 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.2.51 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 29-12-2025 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/876/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Zilla Panchayath Kolar-563101
Office of the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Kolar-563101
Phone No: 08152-222570, e-mail: eepredkolar1@gmail.com
No: 19/2025-26 Date: 22.12.2025

Short term Two Cover System Tender Notice
(Through e-Procurement KW-III)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Act 2000 item rate tenders were invited in two cover system (SBD) in the forms KW-3 through e-procurement from authorized PWD contractors registered in appropriate class for the work of Improvements to village roads of Malur Assembly Constituency in Kolar District. *In the KW-3 forms Indent No:* 21770 & 21757 (SC Reserved), Indent No: 21761 (CAT-I), Indent No: 21772 (CAT-IIA) and Indent No : 21751,21746,21766,21768 & 21775 are Genaral category works. Average Amount put to tender for each work is Rs. 85.00 lakhs The contractor's are requested for participate in e-Tender through GOK **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** last date for submission of tender application and uploading tender forms through website **dt: 13.01.2026 up to 4.00pm and date of opening of technical bids in e-portal on date: 15.01.2026 at 11.00 AM.** The eligible technically qualified contractors the date of opening of financial bids will be intimated. The notification can be obtained from the e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the above office on all working days in working hours. E-Procurement helpline No's for tender clarification with respect uploading and downloading you can **contact: 91 9240214000 & +91 9240214001.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Kolar
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:416/KSMCA/2025-26

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HEMA alias S HEMA alias HEMA S D/o SOODAMANI, R/o 2D 504, Block 2, Provident Tree Apartment, Herohalli, Viswaneedam, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HEMA SOODAMANI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANITA RAMAPPA KURI W/o SANTHOSH KUMARA M C, R/o Mudalamayigowdanahall, Hallimysore Hobali, Hole Narasipura, Nagaranahalli, Hassan, Karnataka-573211, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANJULA H K.

Minority Welfare Department, Chikkaballapura District
Phone : 08156-277049
Date: 22.12.2025

Tender Notification

Tender notification for supply of manpower service through outsource agency. Intersted bidders can participate in e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Approximate Amount put to tender: Rs.194.73 Lakh.** EMD Amount: **Rs.2,92,095/-.** Start date for submission of tender application: **22.12.2025.** Last date to submit: **05.01.2026, 4.00 p.m.**

Sd/-
District Officer
Minority welfare department
Chikkaballapura District
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:326/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Town Municipal Council, Tarikere. Chikkamagaluru Dist.
e-mail: ka.tarikere.tmc@gmail.com
Website: www.tarikeretown.gov.in Ph: 08261-222233
No.: TMCT/H.D/CR/Tender/68/2025-26 Date: 18.12.2025

Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through K.P.P. Portal for below mentioned works under Tarikere Town Municipal Council 2022-23 and Town Municipal Council Fund and interested, registered, eligible contractors can submit Tenders. For details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 1) Last date for submission of e-Tender: 01.01.2026 up to 17.30 hrs. 2) Date of opening the Bid: 03.01.2026 up to 11.30 hrs.

Sl.No. 1. Indent Number: DMA/2025-26/SE6856

Sl.No. 2. Indent Number: DMA/2024-25/IND4564/CALL-2

If there are any changes in the Tender, it will be published only in the website.

Sd/- Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Tarikere.
DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/127/25-26/1455

QUICK READ

UP man arrested over sharing obscene videos

Meerut
Police in Meerut arrested a man for allegedly buying and selling obscene videos of children on Telegram. Amit Jain, a resident of Brahmpuri, was detained on Sunday after a complaint through the Pratibimb portal. His mobile phone has been seized for forensic examination. Jain was granted bail on notice. An FIR under Section 67 of the IT Act has been registered, and authorities are investigating further to check if others were involved in the illegal activity.

Fog causes flight delays and cancellations at Delhi

New Delhi
Delhi airport faced major disruptions on Tuesday as dense fog led to 10 flight cancellations and over 270 delays. Six arrivals and four departures were called off, with departure delays averaging 29 minutes. Airport operator DIAL said visibility is improving, but some flights may still face delays. IGIA, which handles around 1,300 daily flights, is working to manage the disruptions and resume normal operations as weather conditions improve.

BJP leader brutally killed by assailants

Korba
A BJP leader, Akshay Garg, was hacked to death by three masked men at a road construction site in Keshla village, Korba, on Tuesday morning. Garg, a construction contractor and local panchayat member, was attacked while inspecting work. He was rushed to a hospital but died of his injuries. Police have set up checkpoints to trace the assailants, whose motive remains unclear. Family members and supporters gathered at the hospital, prompting police deployment to maintain order.

No confusion over MNS Shiv Sena UBT alliance: Raut

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut clarified that there is no confusion over the party's alliance with the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena ahead of the BMC elections

THANE

Raut said on Tuesday that the alliance has been accepted by party workers, and a formal announcement is expected soon. He added that a meeting on seat sharing was held on Monday night, and arrangements for Nashik, Pune, Thane, Mira-Bhayandar, and Kalyan-Dombivli have been finalised. "The alliance has been formed; the final meeting on seat sharing took place last night. Raj and Uddhav will come together to make the announcement, which is expected today or tomorrow. Discussions in Nashik are complete. Seat sharing has been finalised in Pune, Thane, Mira-Bhayandar, and Kalyan-Dombivli. We will talk to Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray shortly to finalise things," he said.

He further confirmed that workers of both parties have begun collaborating for the local body polls. "The workers have accepted the alliance. There is no confusion regarding the MNS and Shiv Sena alliance. Workers in Mumbai and other municipalities have started working together; instructions have been given," Raut added.

Raut also mentioned ongoing efforts to bring Congress into the alliance, as it is part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). "Our efforts to bring the Congress party along will continue until the very last moment. We tried to convince them and communicated with their high command. Even if they contest separately, we are fundamentally united," he said.

The Maharashtra State Election Commission has announced elections for 29 municipal corporations, including BMC, PMC, and PCMC. Polling will take place on January 15, with counting scheduled for January 16. Meanwhile, the Mahayuti alliance of BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP has dominated local body elections across 286 municipalities and nagar panchayats. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis called the performance a "trailer" for the upcoming municipal polls.

BJP, AIADMK begin talks on seat sharing

CHENNAI

BJP and AIADMK have started discussions on seat sharing ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections

BJP's Tamil Nadu election incharge, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, met AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami in Chennai on Tuesday to initiate talks on seat sharing for the 2026 Assembly elections. Goyal was accompanied by co-incharge Arjun Ram Meghwal, state chief Nainar Nagenthran, and Tamil Nadu in-charge Dr P Sudhakar Reddy.

The BJP delegation was welcomed by Palaniswami and senior leaders of the AIADMK at a city hotel, where discussions began in a cordial atmosphere. According to insiders, BJP is expected to seek around 30 seats in the upcoming elections, which is roughly ten more than the 20 seats it contested in the 2021 Assembly polls.

The talks mark the first formal step in alliance negotiations, as both parties aim to strengthen their position ahead of the elections. AIADMK leaders are reportedly open to discussions, keeping in mind the political dynamics and previous election performances.

Observers note that seat-sharing agreements will be crucial in consolidating votes and countering other political alliances forming in the state. Both parties have emphasized maintaining a cooperative approach, and further meetings are likely in the coming weeks to finalize arrangements.

Political analysts suggest that the outcome of these discussions will significantly influence the strategies of other parties in Tamil Nadu, shaping the electoral battle for the 2026 Assembly elections.

Delhi Court frames charges against Karti Chidambaram

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday ordered the framing of charges against Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram and six others in the Chinese visa scam case, while discharging one accused, Chetan Shrivastava. Special Judge (CBI) Dig Vinay Singh directed the charges for alleged criminal conspiracy, with the detailed order awaited.

The case relates to alleged bribery in facilitating visas for Chinese nationals linked to a 1980 MW power project by Talawandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL) in 2011, when Karti's father, P Chidambaram, was Union Home Minister. The CBI filed a charge sheet in October 2024 after a two-year investigation, naming Karti Chidambaram, his close associate S Bhaskararaman, TSPL, Mumbai-based Bell Tools Ltd, and other accused including Viral Mehta, Anup Agarwal, and Mansoor Siddiqui.

The agency has invoked charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating, and forgery under the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. According to the FIR, TSPL faced delays and penalties in the project and sought to reuse 263 project visas allotted to Chinese officials, which were otherwise not permissible. The FIR alleged that Karti Chidambaram, via Bhaskararaman, demanded illegal gratification of Rs 50 lakh to ensure approval, with payments routed through Bell Tools Ltd and disguised as consultancy invoices.

The project visas were a special type introduced in 2010 for the power and steel sectors, with no provision for reissue. The FIR also claimed that TSPL executives emailed Karti Chidambaram and Bhaskararaman, thanking them after the bribe was allegedly paid in cash.

Nitin Nabin, five-term Bankipur MLA and former BJYM chief, will address workers and meet leaders during Patna roadshow events

BJP national working president Nitin Nabin leads roadshow

PATNA

BJP's newly appointed national working president Nitin Nabin led a grand roadshow in Patna on Tuesday, his first visit to Bihar after assuming the charge last week. The event attracted thousands of supporters along the route, with the party showcasing cultural programmes, posters, and flower decorations to welcome him.

Nabin, accompanied by Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, as well as Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Saraogi, began the roadshow from Aranya Bhawan near the airport. The procession, featuring a vehicle decorated with flowers and lotus cutouts, passed through Sheikhpura More, Rajbanshi Nagar's Hanuman temple, and the income tax roundabout, finally reaching Miller High School ground near the state BJP office. Party workers showered flower petals and raised slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

Security was tightened across the city to ensure smooth proceedings.

The five-term MLA from Bankipur, who also served as state unit chief of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha and BJP in-charge for Chhattisgarh, was appointed national working president on December 14. At Miller High School ground, Nabin is expected to address party workers, while later he may meet Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan at Raj Bhavan. Discussions with party MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and other leaders are also planned at the BJP state headquarters.

Nitin Nabin began his political career in 2006, winning a by-election triggered by the demise of his father, veteran BJP leader Navin Kishore Sinha. Known for his popularity in Bankipur, Nabin retained his seat in the recent state assembly elections with a margin of about 52,000 votes. The roadshow highlighted his strong support base and the BJP's efforts to energize its cadre ahead of upcoming political activities in Bihar.

Allahabad HC grants interim bail to cough syrup accused

LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on December 18 granted interim bail to two brothers, Vibhor Rana and Vishal Singh, arrested for allegedly selling banned Phensedyl cough syrup. Justice Karunesh Singh Pawar of the Lucknow bench approved their bail, noting that no recovery of the banned medicine was made from them. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for January 5.

Rana and Singh were arrested on November 13 after being implicated in diverting stock of the cough syrup. The state government had opposed their bail applications, seeking time to file a reply. While granting interim relief, the court highlighted that three other accused—Shailendra Arya, Pawan Gupta, and Devendra Kumar Vishwakarma—had already been granted bail in the same case.

The court also referred to a similar matter where accused were discharged, as no offence was found under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. It observed that the brothers' names appeared in statements by co-accused Bittu Kumar and Sachin Kumar, but no evidence or recovery was linked to them.

The court instructed the brothers to cooperate with the investigation, make themselves available whenever required, and avoid tampering with any prosecution evidence during the interim bail period.

This order provides temporary relief to the accused while the investigation continues, and the court will review the case further in early January. The decision underscores the court's cautious approach in cases where direct recovery of banned substances is not established.

Kerala government to appeal Dileep assault case Verdict

KOCHI

The Kerala government will soon file an appeal against the 2017 actress assault case verdict, challenging actor Dileep's acquittal and the sentences of six convicts, sources said on Tuesday. The state has approved the appeal, which will be filed after the Kerala High Court's Christmas vacation.

Special Public Prosecutor V Aja Kumar told reporters that he prepared detailed grounds for the appeal after examining the district court judgment. "The government has taken a clear stand that no time should be wasted in filing the appeal," he said. The appeal will question both Dileep's acquittal and the 20-year rigorous imprisonment awarded to six accused, including prime accused Pulsar Suni.

Kumar noted that the trial court had relied on the testimonies of around 60 witnesses to convict six accused but rejected the same evidence while acquitting Dileep and three others. The verdict had disappointed the survivor, who expressed her reaction on social media.

The assault took place in February 2017 when the actress was abducted and sexually assaulted while travelling from Thrissur to Ernakulam after a film shoot. The crime was allegedly recorded on a mobile phone inside the moving vehicle. Dileep was arrested earlier on charges of conspiracy in connection with the case.

The government's appeal aims to ensure accountability and address perceived inconsistencies in the trial court's judgment. Legal experts say the High Court will examine both the acquittal and the sentencing aspects during the hearing, which could take several weeks to conclude. This move signals the state's commitment to seeking justice in the high-profile case and addressing public concerns over the verdict.

AVIAN FLU

Avian flu confirmed in parts of Kerala

ALAPPUZHA

Kerala authorities have confirmed an outbreak of avian flu in parts of Alappuzha and Kottayam districts, prompting precautionary measures, officials said on Tuesday. In Alappuzha, infections were reported in Nedumudi, Cheruthana, Karuvatta Karthikapally, Ambalapuzha South, Punnapra South, Thakazhi, and Purakkad, while in Kottayam, cases were detected in Kurupanthara, Kallupuraykkal, and Veloor.

Animal Husbandry Minister J Chinchu Rani told reporters that samples collected from affected areas were sent to a central laboratory in Bhopal, which confirmed the presence of avian flu. "Cases came to our notice about a week ago, and tests have confirmed the outbreak," she said.

Currently, no restrictions have been imposed on the consumption of poultry products. However, the government may consider culling affected birds and placing consumption limits if the situation worsens. Expert teams are already assessing the outbreak's intensity and working on the ground to contain its spread.

The minister noted that poultry farmers could face losses, especially with higher sales during the Christmas and New Year season. Compensation is generally provided, though sometimes the state has to rely on its own funds due to delays in central allocation.

Rani added that avian flu usually spreads through migratory birds and noted that similar outbreaks occurred last year in Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Pathanamthitta districts. Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and have urged poultry farmers and residents to follow safety guidelines.

Passenger assaulted by off-duty pilot seeks justice

NEW DELHI

A passenger allegedly assaulted by an off-duty Air India Express pilot at Delhi airport has suffered a nasal fracture and is seeking justice, officials said on Tuesday. Ankit Dewan, the complainant, stated that a CT scan confirmed a displaced fracture of his left nasal bone following the incident on December 19 near Terminal 1's security area.

Dewan alleged that the altercation began when he objected to airport staff cutting the queue. He claimed the pilot, identified as Virender Sejwal, verbally abused him before physically attacking him, causing him to bleed and traumatising his seven-year-old daughter, who witnessed the incident. Dewan has submitted a written complaint to Delhi Police and confirmed that an FIR has been registered based on his report.

The Delhi Police said the case has been registered under sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 126 (wrongful restraint), and 351 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. An investigation is underway, and authorities plan to review CCTV footage from the terminal to gather evidence.

Air India Express stated that it is aware of the incident involving the employee, who was travelling as a passenger on another airline. The pilot has been removed from official duties immediately, pending an internal inquiry.

Dewan said he is focusing on his recovery while awaiting legal action. Police officials confirmed that they are examining all aspects of the case, including eyewitness statements and video evidence, to ensure a thorough investigation and appropriate action against the accused.

QUICK READ

Delhi HC rejects Hizbul Chief Sons' pleas

New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed the pleas of Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin's two sons challenging framing of charges in a terror funding case. A bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Manoj Jain said the appeals were not maintainable. The case involves funds sent through hawala channels from Pakistan to fuel terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Shahid Yousuf and Syed Ahmad Shakeel were arrested in 2017 and 2018, respectively, and their trial continues under NIA investigation.

GIFT City expands wine and dine policy

Gandhinagar

GIFT City has relaxed its liquor rules under the revised "Wine and Dine" policy to allow authorised officials and visitors to consume alcohol in more areas, including hotel terraces, lawns, poolside zones, and restaurants. Temporary permits for domestic and foreign business visitors are now easier to obtain, and group permits can be issued for conventions and events. The move aims to boost GIFT City's appeal to global investors and support a competitive business environment, without changing Gujarat's overall prohibition laws.

Court postpones case against Robert Vadra land deal

New Delhi

A Delhi court on Tuesday postponed the hearing on the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) money laundering case against businessman Robert Vadra and others over a 2008 land deal in Gurugram's Shikohpur village. The Rouse Avenue Court deferred proceedings to January 22, 2026, to consider the ED's plea seeking cognisance of its charge sheet filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED alleges that Vadra, husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, generated proceeds of crime through a fraudulent transaction involving 3.53 acres in Haryana. According to the agency, the alleged funds were routed through multiple companies linked to Vadra. Notices had earlier been issued to Vadra and other accused, as the court must give them an opportunity to be heard under Section 223(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Union Min Amit Shah to address National Cooperative Summit

The conference aims to boost farmer income, strengthen cooperatives, and advance sustainable agriculture under PM Modi's vision

PANCHKULA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address a national cooperative conference titled "Prosperity through Cooperation -- Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Agriculture" in Panchkula, Haryana, on Wednesday. The conference aims to strengthen cooperatives, improve small farmers' income, and promote sustainable agricultural practices while tackling climate challenges. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will attend as a special guest, highlighting the government's focus on cooperative-led agricultural growth.

During the event, Amit Shah will e-inaugurate the Milk Cooling Centre at Salempur in Bhiwani and the HAFED Atta Mill at Jatusana in Rewari. He will also distribute RuPay Platinum Debit Cards to beneficiaries of Haryana's cooperative banks and hand over registration certificates to Presidents of newly established M-PACS under KRIBHCO. A dedicated portal showcasing cooperative activities during the International Year of Cooperatives will also be launched.

The summit will focus on sharing modern agricultural knowledge, expanding credit access, encouraging organic and climate-resilient practices, and adopting advanced technologies to support farmers. KRIBHCO has consistently supported millions of farmers through fertiliser supplies, advisory services, and other farmer-centric initiatives.

By emphasizing policy implementation, income stability for small and marginal farmers, and cooperative-based agricultural models, the conference is expected to provide a fresh direction to the cooperative movement in India. This event marks a significant step in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Prosperity through Cooperation," aligning with the International Year of Cooperatives 2025. The gathering is also set to highlight the growing role of primary agricultural credit societies in boosting rural development and sustainability.

The summit is seen as a key initiative to empower farmers and strengthen India's cooperative sector, ensuring long-term benefits for agriculture and rural communities.

Def Min Rajnath Singh unveils BRO guide for DPRs

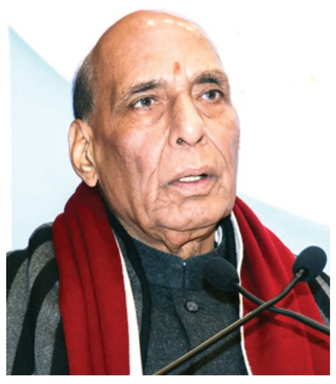
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday released the 'Guide on Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Road Infrastructure Projects' prepared by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at South Block, New Delhi. The guide provides engineers with a uniform reference covering specifications, standards, construction methodology, execution strategy, quality control, and cost analysis, helping reduce delays and cost overruns in road projects.

BRO, responsible for constructing and maintaining highways and strategic roads in India's remote and challenging terrains, developed the guide to assist in both new construction and upgrading existing infrastructure. According to the Ministry of Defence, the guide is expected to enhance the quality and consistency of DPRs, ensure timely project execution, and contribute to socio-economic development and improved strategic connectivity of border areas through systematic planning, technical accuracy, and cost-effective execution.

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of Road Transport and Highways V Umashankar, DG Border Roads Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, and other senior officials attended the release.

Earlier, on Monday, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote collaboration in research, education, training, and technology support for defence and internal security.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releases BRO's new guide for DPRs, aiming to improve road project planning, execution, and strategic connectivity in remote border regions.

The MoU, signed by DRDO Director General Chandrika Kaushik and RRU Vice Chancellor Prof. Bimal N. Patel in the presence of Rajnath Singh, will focus on technology gap analysis, future forecasting, life-cycle management of DRDO systems, and enhancing India's self-reliance and strategic autonomy under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative during "Amrit Kaal."

This combined effort aims to integrate knowledge, technology, and operational insights to strengthen national security preparedness and the effectiveness of India's border and internal security infrastructure.

Sri Lankan navy detains TN fishermen again

CHENNAI

Twelve fishermen from Tamil Nadu were detained by the Sri Lankan Navy on Tuesday for allegedly fishing in international waters, reigniting tensions over maritime boundaries in the Palk Strait. The fishermen, from Rameswaram and Thangachimadam in Ramanathapuram district, were fishing between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar when intercepted by a Sri Lankan surveillance team.

The fishermen were taken into custody along with their mechanised trawler and escorted to a Sri Lankan naval port, where legal proceedings are expected. Sri Lankan authorities accused them of crossing maritime boundaries and illegal fishing, a claim often disputed by Indian fishermen due to the narrow and contested fishing zone in the region.

The incident follows the recent issuance of around 450 fishing tokens from Rameswaram fishing jetty, indicating increased fishing activity ahead of Christmas and New Year. The seized trawler belonged to Jothibas of Thangachimadam. While not formally registered, it had been issued a fishing token, raising concerns over regulatory gaps.

Among those detained are Prabhat (28), James Heiton (29), and Antony (32), each the primary earner for their families. Their arrest has caused distress in Rameswaram and nearby coastal villages, with local fishermen expressing frustration over repeated detentions and vessel seizures that disrupt livelihoods.

Kerala police launches initiative against drug abuse

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Alarmed by rising drug abuse among economically stable youth, particularly in the private sector, Kerala Police has launched a comprehensive strategy combining strict enforcement and workplace prevention. The initiative, named Prevention of Drug Abuse (PODA), was announced on Tuesday by State Police Chief Ravada Chandrasekhar to curb narcotics trafficking and substance misuse in the State. As part of the ongoing D-Hunt Special Drive, police have registered 30,991 cases this year. Of these, 349 involved commercial quantities of narcotics, 957 cases related to intermediate quantities, and 7,718 involved small amounts.

Delhi HC directs UAE consulate to provide lawyers

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed the Indian Consulate in the UAE to provide a list of locally accredited lawyers or law firms for actor Celina Jaitly's detained brother, former Indian Army officer Major Vikrant Kumar Jaitly (retd). The order came during a chamber hearing in a plea seeking effective legal representation and assistance for Major Jaitly, who has been detained in the UAE for over a year.

Justice Sachin Datta noted that Major Jaitly continues to receive consular access as per earlier orders. During the hearing, Celina Jaitly requested arrangements for a local lawyer or law firm to represent her brother. The Court accepted the request and clarified that the costs for engaging any lawyer or law firm would be borne by Major Jaitly or his family, and this must be clearly communicated to him.

The Court further directed that if any lawyer or law firm is willing to waive professional charges, this information should also be conveyed, enabling Major Jaitly to make an informed choice. Additionally, the specific name of the lawyer or law firm must be communicated to him.

Earlier, the Delhi High Court had instructed the Centre, through the Ministry of External Affairs, to facilitate communication between Celina Jaitly and her brother, ensuring regular updates on his welfare and legal status. The Court had also appointed a nodal officer to maintain communication, guarantee consular access, and ensure Major Jaitly's family remains informed. The matter is listed for further hearing on January 22.2

ED alleges misuse of Centre funds by Khurshid family

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has revealed that Rs 71.50 lakh granted by the Central government to Dr Zakir Hussain Memorial Trust was diverted for personal gain instead of being used for sanctioned camps.

Former Minister Salman Khurshid's wife, Louise Khurshid, along with trust officials Pratyush Shukla and Mohammad Athar, are accused of misusing the funds for the trust's interests and personal benefit.

The ED made the disclosure days after the Prevention of Money Laundering Act court in Lucknow took cognisance of its Prosecution Complaint on November 25, 2025.

ED secures conviction in Punjab drug trafficking case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday secured the conviction of key accused Athar Sayeed in a cross-border drug trafficking case registered in 2016 following an inquiry by Punjab Police. ED investigations revealed that Sayeed was involved in trafficking heroin across the border and generating Proceeds of Crime (POC) from the illegal activities.

Sayeed was convicted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, by the Special Judge (PMLA), Jalandhar, in an order dated December 22. The court sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000. If the fine is not paid, he will face an additional three-month jail term. The ED also secured confiscation of Rs 17 lakh, identified as the POC.

The case was initiated based on an FIR registered by Punjab Police under various sections of the NDPS Act, 1985, against Sayeed and others for cross-border drug trafficking. The ED conducted searches at two locations on April 1, 2016, under PMLA provisions. Movable properties, including cash worth Rs 17 lakh seized from Sayeed, were attached under a Provisional Attachment Order on March 21, 2018.

According to the federal agency, Sayeed played a key role in smuggling heroin, selling it, and collecting the proceeds. The conviction marks a significant step in the long-standing investigation into cross-border drug operations in Punjab and reinforces the agency's commitment to tackling organized crime and money laundering. The ED's action demonstrates its focus on enforcing anti-money laundering laws alongside addressing narcotics-related offences.

Security forces conduct anti-sabotage operations in Srinagar

SRINAGAR

Security forces on Tuesday carried out anti-sabotage operations around vital installations in Srinagar to strengthen security and prevent potential threats, officials said. Operations were conducted in Maharaja Bazaar and Amira Kadal areas near Bakshi Stadium, the main venue for Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations in the Valley. An official stated that such pre-event operations are routine to ensure terrorists cannot disrupt flag hoisting ceremonies, parades, and cultural events. The exercise involved the police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) working in coordination to secure sensitive locations and major installations in North Srinagar.

Delhi police crack cyber fraud QR code case

NEW DELHI

The Cyber Police Station of North District, Delhi, has solved a QR code tampering-based cyber fraud case and arrested the main accused following technical analysis and investigation. The case emerged after a complainant purchased a lehenga worth Rs 2.50 lakh from a reputed Chandni Chowk shop on December 13.

During the purchase, the complainant made two digital payments of Rs 90,000 and Rs 50,000, totalling Rs 1.40 lakh, by scanning the shop's displayed QR codes. Later, the shop informed the customer that no payment had been credited to their official account. Despite showing payment screenshots, the complainant was told the money was not received, leading to an online complaint.

An e-FIR was registered under Sections 318(4), 319, and 340 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police inspected the shop, verified billing and payment systems, and recorded statements of the complainant, shop staff, and

management. Examination of bank records and transaction trails revealed that the payment was diverted to an unrelated account in Rajasthan.

Using digital footprints, mobile data, and bank records, police traced and arrested 19-year-old Manish Verma from Chaksu, Jaipur district. He admitted to editing genuine merchant QR codes to divert customer payments into his account. Seized mobile phones contained over 100 edited and original QR codes, chats, screenshots, and financial records.

Investigation revealed Verma used image-editing apps to replace merchant bank details while keeping QR codes visually identical. He confessed that his actions were inspired by a South Indian movie, "Vettaiyan."

STRAY DOGS

Feeding strays restriction not illegal: Bombay HC

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has ruled that stopping someone from feeding stray dogs in non-designated areas is not illegal under the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita. A bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Sandesh Patil quashed a criminal case against a 42-year-old Pune resident who had stopped a woman and her friends from feeding stray dogs at the gates of their housing society.

The court noted that preventing feeding on footpaths, entry and exit points, or school bus stops cannot be considered "wrongful restraint" or obstruction. The accused had informed the complainant that the location was not a designated feeding spot. The HC referred to Supreme Court judgments and the Animal Birth Control Rules, which allow only designated feeding areas for stray animals.

The judgment stated that the act was intended to protect children in the society, as

there had been incidents of dog bites and attacks. The alleged obstruction lacked criminal intent and aimed to ensure residents' safety.

The FIR, registered at Hinjewadi police station in January, mentioned that the accused and other society members stood in front of the complainant's car to prevent her from leaving while feeding the dogs. The HC concluded that such preventive action cannot be termed illegal, especially when over 40 stray dogs in the society posed a threat to residents' safety. The decision reinforces the importance of designated feeding areas for stray animals while balancing community safety.

QUICK READ

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 12 TN fishermen, impounds trawler

Chennai

Sri Lankan naval personnel on Tuesday arrested at least 12 fishermen from Tamil Nadu's coastal belt on charges of allegedly poaching in international waters, once again highlighting the persistent tensions faced by Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait region. According to officials of the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department, the fishermen hailed from Rameswaram and Thangachimadam in Ramanathapuram district. The fishermen were reportedly engaged in fishing activities in the waters between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar when they were intercepted by a surveillance unit of the Sri Lankan Navy.

Bangladesh-Pakistan military pact in works

Dhaka

Bangladesh is in the process of formalising a military deal with Pakistan, which is similar to the lines that Islamabad signed with Saudi Arabia. Since Muhammad Yunus was appointed caretaker of the interim government in Bangladesh, ties between the two countries have plummeted to new depths. Dhaka has consistently tried moving away from India and inched closer towards Islamabad, even if it meant that the ISI used Bangladesh as a breeding ground for radicals and terrorists. Indian agencies are keeping a close watch on the developments as Bangladesh and Pakistan get ready to formalise a military deal.

Another dark chapter unfolding in B'desh: Canadian MP

Ottawa

Canadian Conservative Party MP Shuv Majumdar strongly condemned the brutal mob lynching of Hindu youth Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh's Mymensingh district, saying the incident underscored that forces of hatred and extremism remain unchecked across the South Asian nation. Taking to X, Majumdar said, Another dark chapter is unfolding in Bangladesh, unleashing the familiar pain of generational trauma. The brutal lynching of Dipu Chandra Das -- a young Hindu factory worker beaten to death by a mob, his body desecrated and set ablaze.

5 Policemen Killed in Targeted Attack on Security Convoy in Pak

Targeted violence against police escalates as gunmen kill five personnel in Karak, deepening security concerns nationwide.

ISLAMABAD

At least five police personnel were killed on Tuesday after gunmen targeted a police mobile in Karak district of Pakistan's volatile northwest, local police confirmed. The deadly incident adds to a troubling pattern of attacks against law enforcement agencies, particularly in the country's bordering provinces.

District Police Officer (DPO) Saud Khan said that unidentified assailants opened fire on a police vehicle that was part of a security detail assigned to a private gas company. The attackers fled the scene after the assault and subsequently set the vehicle ablaze, leaving it completely destroyed. Security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation, but no arrests had been reported at the time of filing this report.

The attack occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province that has witnessed a sharp rise in militant activity in recent years. Officials acknowledged that police and security installations have increasingly become soft targets for armed groups operating in the region.

Earlier this month, on December 8, a policeman was injured when assailants targeted the Ahmadzai police station in Bannu district using sniper fire, according to a police officer quoted by local media. Just days before that, on December 3, three police personnel — including an assistant sub-inspector — were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast that struck a police vehicle in the Paniyala area of Dera Ismail Khan. District police spokesperson Yaqoob Zulqarnain said the victims were ASI Gul Alam, Constable Rafiq, and the driver of the mobile van, Sakhi Jan, while another constable escaped unhurt.

The latest killing comes amid alarming statistics highlighted by the Islamabad-based Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS). In its most recent security assessment, the think tank reported a more than 46 per cent increase in overall violence across Pakistan during the third quarter of 2025.

India Reaffirms Support to Sri Lanka with $450 mn aid

Jaishankar assures Sri Lanka of India's unwavering support, announcing major reconstruction aid following Cyclone Ditwah devastation.

COLOMBO

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday reaffirmed India's full support to Sri Lanka as the island nation continues recovery and rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah. During a series of high-level meetings in Colombo, Jaishankar underscored New Delhi's commitment as a trusted first responder and development partner.

Jaishankar met Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath, Health Minister Nalinda Jayatissa, Labour and Deputy Finance Minister Anil Jayantha, and Deputy Tourism Minister Ruwan Ranasinghe. In a post on X, the External Affairs Minister said the discussions focused on the implementation of India's reconstruction package and explored additional relief measures to accelerate recovery.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar held talks with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, assuring her of India's steadfast commitment to rebuilding efforts. He described the reconstruction package as a reflection of the deep and enduring bond between the two neighbouring nations, particularly in times of crisis.

The Indian minister also called on Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, conveying the personal message and warm wishes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Jaishankar emphasized India's solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka and reiterated New Delhi's readiness to extend sustained assistance.

Significantly, Jaishankar announced a comprehensive reconstruction package worth USD 450 million. The assistance will support the rehabilitation and restoration of critical road, railway, and bridge connectivity; construction of houses that were fully or partially damaged; and targeted aid for the health and education sectors affected by the cyclone. The package also includes support for agriculture to mitigate potential shortages in the short and medium term, as well as investments in improving disaster response and preparedness. Building on India's first-responder role under Operation Sagar Bandhu, the initiative highlights New Delhi's broader regional commitment to humanitarian assistance and resilient infrastructure, reinforcing India–Sri Lanka cooperation at a crucial juncture for the island nation's recovery.

248 civilians, 205 Pakistani security personnel killed in Balochistan

QUETTA

As violence continues to escalate in Balochistan, at least 248 civilians and 205 security personnel were killed in several attacks, bombings, and armed incidents across the province in 2025 -- making it one of the deadliest years for the region in recent times, according to the Pakistani government's data. As per the findings of the Pakistani government released by security authorities, a total of 432 armed incidents were recorded across Balochistan during the year, resulting in hundreds of fatalities among civilians and members of security forces, while a climate of fear and uncertainty persisted in the region, reports local media.

Citing official statistics, The Balochistan Post reported that the violence resulted in the deaths of 284 civilians and 205 security personnel, although earlier government figures had put the civilian death toll at 248. This unrest severely impacted the daily life of Baloch people and raised serious concerns about Balochistan's overall security situation.

According to the report, several major attacks took place across Balochistan in 2025, including six suicide bombings in Quetta, Mastung, Khuzdar, Turbat, and Nokundi.

It noted that on March 11, a militant group attacked and hijacked the Jaffer Express in the Bolan area.

Additionally, seven people were killed in Barkhan on February 18, followed by separate gunfire incidents targeting passenger coaches near Zhob and Kalat in July.

Baloch leader Tara Chand accuses Pakistan's Punjab leadership of exploiting Balochistan's resources to fuel provincial development.

Baloch American Congress President Slams Punjab Leadership

WASHINGTON

Tara Chand, President of the Baloch American Congress, on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Punjab province Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, alleging that claims of development in Punjab have been built on the suffering and exploitation of the people of Balochistan.

Taking to X, Chand accused the Punjab leadership of boasting about infrastructure projects such as the Green Line and Orange Line while ignoring what he described as the heavy human and economic cost borne by Balochistan. Every achievement you advertise in Punjab has come at the cost of Baloch lives, Chand wrote, asserting that development narratives presented by Punjab were rooted in decades of resource extraction from Baloch regions.

Highlighting historical grievances, Chand said that as early as 1952, natural gas from Balochistan was diverted to Punjab, where it powered industries, illuminated homes, and accelerated economic growth. In contrast, he claimed, the people of Balochistan were left without access to basic amenities. According to him, Punjab's prosperity has been fuelled by the extraction of Balochistan's gas, minerals, gold, land, coastline, and marine and natural resources.

Chand painted a bleak picture of living conditions in Balochistan, alleging widespread deprivation. Our people have no food, no drinking water, no schools, no electricity, no healthcare, and no opportunities, he stated, adding that unemployment, despair, and resistance now define daily life in the province. He described this situation as living proof of long-standing neglect and marginalisation.

The Baloch leader further alleged that the suffering of the Baloch people is the result of systematic exploitation by Pakistani authorities. He claimed that discrimination extends beyond the province, asserting that Baloch people living in Punjab face humiliation and marginalisation.

Chand also criticised the role of external financing, alleging that Punjab's recent development has largely been funded through China under the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor. He accused the authorities of mortgaging Balochistan's land and resources to China while directing loans and investments primarily toward Punjab.

Thai military continues to strike multiple targets in Cambodian territory

PHNOM PENH

Thai military forces continued to use artillery and tank-mounted machine guns to fire at multiple targets in Cambodian territory as of Tuesday morning, a Cambodian defence spokesperson said on Tuesday. The civilian death toll in Cambodia has increased to 21, as border conflict with Thailand has entered its 17th day, Defence Ministry's Undersecretary of State and Spokesperson Lt. General Maly Socheata said.

The Thai military had attacked locations where Cambodian civilians resided, resulting in 21 civilian deaths, including one infant, and injuries to 83 others as of 6 pm on December 22, she said at a press briefing.

The Cambodia-Thailand border conflict has reignited since December 7, and both sides have accused the other of initiating the attack, Xinhua News Agency reported.

According to the latest figures released by the Cambodian Ministry of Interior, the conflict has so far forced about 545,000 Cambodians to flee their homes for safe shelters.

The Foreign Ministers of Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries, who held a 'special meeting' in Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur to address the current situation between Cambodia and Thailand, have urged both countries to exercise restraint and take immediate steps for the cessation of all forms of hostilities. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment to ASEAN unity and solidarity as well as ASEAN Centrality in ensuring regional peace, security, stability and prosperity, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter. The participants of the meeting voiced serious concerns about the continued tensions and hostilities, which have caused significant casualties, damage to civilian infrastructure, and displacement of people on both sides of the border, according to the statement released by the ASEAN Chair.

The members urged Thailand and Cambodia to ensure that civilians residing in the affected border areas are able to return, without obstruction and in safety and dignity, to their homes and normal livelihoods as they existed prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

Woman arrested in NCP leader shooting case

DHAKA

Bangladesh's police have arrested a woman in connection with the shooting of a National Citizen Party (NCP) leader, local media reported on Tuesday, citing an official. The victim, Mohammad Motaleb Sikder, the Khulna divisional chief of the NCP and a central organiser of NCP Sramik Shakti, was shot at a house near Gazi Medical College Hospital in the Sonadanga area of Khulna city.

This incident came just days after radical Islamist leader Sharif Osman Hadi was shot on December 12 by assailants in Dhaka.

Confirming the arrest, Taimur Islam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Detective Division (DB) of Khulna Metropolitan, said that the woman was taken into custody from the Sadar Police Station area of the city.

The woman has been identified as Tanima, also known as Tanvi, though the police did not release further details about her identity.

Citing multiple local sources, leading Bangladeshi daily Prothom Alo reported that Tanima serves as the joint member secretary of the Khulna district branch of NCP's youth wing, Jubo Shakti.

Reports suggest that Sikder was shot at Tanima's rented house in the Sonadanga area of Khulna. He was rescued by the locals and taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) in an injured condition.

KMCH Superintendent Md Akhtaruzzaman said that Sikder is currently out of danger The bullet hit the left side near his ear and exited without entering the head. His scalp was injured, but he is now stable and out of danger, said the doctor.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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6	3	1	2	4	8	5	7	9
9	1	4	5	6	2	7	8	3
2	7	3	8	1	4	9	6	5
8	6	5	7	3	9	1	4	2

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

BANGLADESH SUICIDE CRISIS

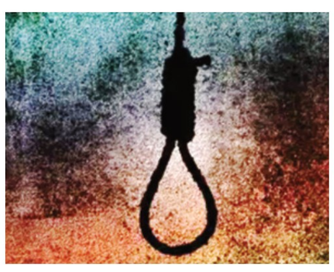
Bangladesh Sees Alarming Rise in Suicide Cases

DHAKA

Bangladesh has witnessed a sharp and deeply concerning rise in suicide cases, with an average of around 40 people dying by suicide every day across the country, according to local media reports. The disturbing data highlights a growing public health and social crisis that experts warn requires urgent, coordinated national action.

The figures were disclosed by Additional Inspector General of Bangladesh Police (Crime) Md Ashraful Islam during an event held at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka. Addressing policymakers, researchers, and health professionals, the senior police official stated that Jashore district currently records the highest number of suicide cases in the country.

The event was jointly organised by ICDDRB, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Discussions centred on the draft Bangladesh National Suicide Prevention Plan, with proceedings reported by leading Bangladeshi daily Prothom Alo.



Despite increasing public discourse on mental health and suicide, several speakers at the event pointed out that Bangladesh still lacks meaningful and effective suicide prevention initiatives. Experts noted that while public health researchers often rely on WHO estimates, police data paints an even grimmer picture, suggesting that actual suicide-related deaths exceed international projections.

Providing a detailed breakdown, Ashraful Islam shared nationwide data on suicide-related unnatural deaths recorded by law enforcement agencies. Between 2020 and 2024, a total of 73,597 people died by suicide in Bangladesh. This translates to an annual average of 14,719 deaths, or approximately 40 suicides every day. The trend appears to be worsening in 2025, with 12,335 cases recorded between January and October alone — a daily average of nearly 41 deaths.

Speaking at the event, National Institute of Mental Health Director Mahbubur Rahman stressed that suicide prevention cannot succeed through isolated or fragmented efforts. He called for coordinated action involving multiple ministries, including health, agriculture, home affairs, education, religious affairs, and information, alongside civil society and community stakeholders.

QUICK READ

Revised data series won't have big impact on GDP growth estimates

New Delhi

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) does not expect a significant change in India's GDP growth estimates after the release of the revised national accounts series in February next year, MoSPI Secretary Saurabh Garg said on Tuesday. Too early to say on its impact on GDP numbers. In general, we don't expect much change from our previous expectations, Garg told journalists here. The government is set to release the new GDP series along with a new inflation series. The revised national accounts framework will also include back-series data for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, enabling continuity and comparison.

Early loan disbursement recovery points to healthier credit growth

New Delhi

Early signs of recovery in loan disbursements across most retail and vehicle segments point to a healthier growth in credit cycle in India in FY27, a report said on Tuesday. The report from JM Financial Institutional Securities said that disbursement momentum across sub-segments rose 6 per cent and 35 per cent year on year in H1 FY26 and Q2 FY26, respectively, versus a growth of 3 per cent and 11 per cent YoY in FY25. Public sector banks gained share in personal, home and auto loans while private banks strengthened share in consumer durables, credit cards and two wheelers, the report said.

Festive rush leaves air passengers stranded

Chennai

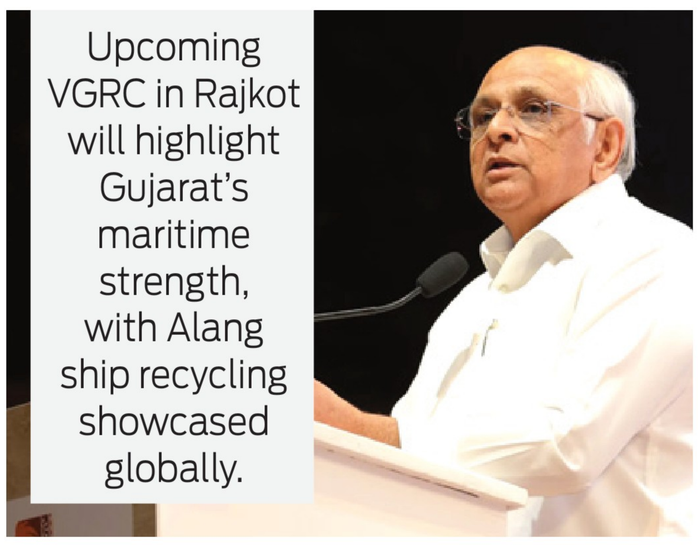
Passengers travelling from Chennai to the southern districts of Tamil Nadu are facing severe difficulties due to the non-availability of direct flights during the peak Christmas–New Year holiday season. With demand far exceeding the available capacity, airfares have risen sharply and travel times have increased substantially, causing widespread inconvenience to holiday travellers. With schools and colleges closed for extended vacations, a large number of people residing in Chennai and its suburban areas have begun travelling to their hometowns to spend the festive season with their families.

Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference to Showcase Alang

GANDHINAGAR

The second edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) for the Kutch and Saurashtra region, scheduled to be held next month in Rajkot, is set to place Gujarat's maritime capabilities firmly in the global spotlight. A major focus of the conference will be the internationally renowned Alang–Sosiya Ship Recycling Yard, which has emerged as a cornerstone of the state's blue economy and sustainable industrial growth.

Developed under the guidance of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), the Alang–Sosiya Ship Recycling Yard has grown into one of the world's largest and most trusted ship recycling hubs. The facility contributes nearly 32 per cent to the global ship recycling volume, a remarkable achievement driven by progressive state policies, transparent governance, strict safety norms, and strong environmental commitments.



Upcoming VGRC in Rajkot will highlight Gujarat's maritime strength, with Alang ship recycling showcased globally.

To date, more than 8,800 ships have been recycled at Alang through safe and systematic processes. With an impressive 99.95 per cent of materials reused, the yard has become a benchmark for green economy practices worldwide. Both hazardous and non-hazardous waste generated during recycling operations are handled using scientifically validated disposal methods, ensuring minimal environmental impact.

Out of the 128 operational plots at Alang, 115 are fully compliant with the Hong Kong Convention (HKC). With the convention coming into global force in June 2025, Alang has earned recognition as the world's most reliable and compliant green ship recycling centre. This compliance reinforces India's commitment to safe, environmentally sound ship recycling practices aligned with international standards.

The ship recycling yard is supported by robust infrastructure, including a dedicated training institute, a Level-3 multispecialty hospital and trauma centre for workers, and state-of-the-art waste management facilities. Waste from recycling activities is treated at the TSDF site, which is currently undergoing further upgradation to enhance capacity and efficiency.

AP Aims to Lead India's Quantum Revolution: Naidu

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday expressed strong confidence that Andhra Pradesh will emerge as the national leader in quantum technology, asserting that the state is laying the foundation for a transformative technological revolution. Addressing a massive digital gathering of more than 50,000 students, professionals, researchers, and industry partners, Naidu outlined an ambitious roadmap to build a future-ready quantum workforce and strengthen the Amaravati Quantum Valley ecosystem.

Chandrababu Naidu unveils ambitious action plan to position Andhra Pradesh as India's leading quantum technology hub.

Speaking under a state-led initiative focused on advanced technologies, the Chief Minister said the government has prepared a comprehensive action plan to produce experts across quantum and allied domains. He announced that Andhra Pradesh aims to train one million individuals in quantum fundamentals such as quantum mechanics and quantum algorithms. In addition, the state plans to skill 300,000 professionals in quantum software and hardware technologies, while nurturing 100,000 experts in advanced research and innovation.

Naidu said Amaravati will be developed as India's Quantum Valley, drawing inspiration from Silicon Valley in the United States. He expressed optimism that quantum computing devices would be designed and manufactured in Amaravati within the next two years, signalling the state's intent to move rapidly from skill development to high-end production and innovation.

Highlighting the strong response to the initiative, the Chief Minister said the quantum programme has already generated significant enthusiasm among young learners and professionals. Through a single announcement to train quantum experts, 54,000 people registered, he noted, calling it a clear indication of the growing interest in next-generation technologies among India's youth.

The programme is being implemented through a strategic partnership led by WISER (The Washington Institute for STEM, Entrepreneurship and Research), with Qubitech serving as the India partner. The collaboration aims to bring global expertise, industry exposure, and cutting-edge curriculum to Andhra Pradesh's quantum mission.

Tata Motors marks a landmark moment as over 2.5 lakh TATA.ev cars now operate nationwide

Tata Motors Crosses 2.5 Lakh EV Milestone, Strengthening Leadership

MUMBAI

Tata Motors on Tuesday announced that it has crossed a significant milestone in India's electric vehicle journey, with more than 2.5 lakh TATA.ev cars now running on roads across the country. The achievement reinforces the company's leadership position in India's rapidly expanding electric passenger vehicle segment, at a time when EVs are transitioning from niche adoption to mainstream acceptance.

The milestone reflects the growing confidence of Indian consumers in electric mobility and highlights Tata Motors' pivotal role in shaping this transformation. Since the launch of its first mass-market electric car, the Nexon.ev, in 2020, the company has consistently expanded its EV footprint, focusing on affordability, reliability, and ecosystem development.

The Nexon.ev created history by becoming the first electric car in India to cross one lakh cumulative sales, setting a benchmark for the domestic EV industry. Building on this success, Tata Motors has broadened its electric portfolio to cater to diverse customer needs and price segments.

Currently, Tata Motors commands around 66 per cent of India's electric passenger vehicle market, meaning nearly two out of every three electric cars on Indian roads belong to the Tata stable. Its EV lineup includes models such as the Tiago.ev, Punch.ev, Nexon.ev, Curvv.ev, and Harrier.ev, covering multiple body styles and consumer segments.

In addition to personal mobility, the company also offers the XPRES-T EV for fleet operators, expanding access to electric mobility for commercial and shared transportation services.

Commenting on the milestone, Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director and CEO of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited, said that crossing 2.5 lakh EV sales demonstrates that electric mobility is increasingly becoming part of everyday Indian life. He noted that customers are now driving EVs with greater confidence and trusting them as their primary vehicles.

Chandra emphasised that Tata Motors' EV journey has gone beyond selling cars, focusing instead on building a comprehensive ecosystem to support India's transition to clean mobility. He credited supportive government policies, supplier partnerships, charging infrastructure providers, and customer trust as key enablers of this progress.

Gold scales new peak of Rs 1.4 lakh in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose for the second straight day in the national capital, climbing ₹2,650 to a fresh record of ₹1,40,850 per 10 grams on Tuesday, tracking strong global market trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Gold of 99.9% purity had closed at ₹1,38,200 per 10 grams on Monday. So far in 2025, domestic gold prices have surged by ₹61,900, or 78.4%, from ₹78,950 per 10 grams recorded on December 31, 2024.

Silver also extended its rally for a second consecutive session, jumping ₹2,750 to hit an all-time high of ₹2,17,250 per kilogram, inclusive of taxes. In the previous session, silver had settled at ₹2,14,500 per kg after a sharp rise of ₹10,400.

India's IT job demand touches 1.8 million in 2025 driven by GCCs

NEW DELHI

India's IT job demand reached 1.8 million roles in 2025, up 16 per cent over the previous year, with a larger share of hiring coming from GCCs and product-led organisations, a report has said.

The report from talent solutions provider Quess Corp said Global Capability Centres accounted for about 27 per cent of total IT hiring demand in 2025, up from 15 per cent in 2024, while product and SaaS firms expanded selective hiring, while IT services and consulting recorded modest growth.

Startup hiring declined to low single-digit levels amid funding moderation, the report noted.

Mid career professionals with four to ten years of experience made up 65 per cent of hiring, compared with 50 per cent in 2024, and entry level hiring accounted for 15 per cent as employers sought productivity ready talent.

Demand shifted strongly toward emerging digital skills, with AI/ML, cloud engineering, DevOps and cybersecurity outpacing traditional software roles significantly with over half of hiring centred on former capabilities, the report said.

Select next generation roles attracted salary premiums of 10–40 per cent for Generative AI specialists, MLOps and LLMOps engineers, AI ethics and governance leads, FinOps professionals, cyber threat intelligence analysts and platform engineering architects

AI, cloud and cybersecurity skills saw particularly strong interest, pointing to the increasing complexity of roles being built in India. Overall, this suggests a technology hiring market that is moving steadily up the value curve, with this momentum offering a positive base for 2026, said Kapil Joshi, CEO of IT Staffing, Quess Corp.

Hiring remained concentrated in Tier 1 cities, which accounted for 88–90 per cent of demand, led by Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi NCR, while Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities contributed 10–12 per cent.

Google Activates Emergency Location Service on Android in India

NEW DELHI

Google on Tuesday announced the activation of its Emergency Location Service (ELS) on Android devices in India, marking a significant step toward strengthening emergency response capabilities nationwide. With this move, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to fully integrate the advanced caller location technology with its 112 emergency services.

In a statement, Google said that the Emergency Location Service is now live on Android across India, enabling emergency responders to receive a caller's precise location automatically when a 112 call or SMS is made. Uttar Pradesh's emergency response system, UP112, is the first to operationalise the technology end-to-end, allowing responders to locate callers faster and more accurately during critical situations.

ELS is a built-in Android feature that uses a combination of GPS, Wi-Fi, and mobile network signals to determine a caller's location with an accuracy of up to 50 metres. This capability is particularly vital in emergencies where callers may be unable to describe their location or where calls drop shortly after being connected. Even in such cases, responders can still access the last known location and reach those in need more quickly.

Google emphasised that the service has been designed with strong privacy safeguards. ELS activates only during emergency calls or messages, is free of cost, and does not require users to install additional apps or hardware. Importantly, the location data is transmitted directly from the user's phone to emergency services and is neither collected nor stored by Google.

Before its statewide rollout in Uttar Pradesh, the Emergency Location Service was pilot tested for several months with promising results.

WOMEN-LED TRADE MILESTONE

India–New Zealand FTA a Historic: PM Modi

WELLINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday described the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as a historic milestone in the country's trade diplomacy, noting that it is India's first women-led FTA, with almost the entire negotiating team comprising women. The Prime Minister said the agreement symbolises not only a breakthrough in economic cooperation but also India's growing emphasis on women-led development and leadership.

PM Modi shared an article authored by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, which elaborates on the evolving nature of India's trade agreements. Responding to Goyal's post on X, the Prime Minister stated that India's FTAs today go far beyond tariff reductions and are part of a broader mission to strengthen the economy and improve the lives of millions. He highlighted that the India–New Zealand FTA stands out as a defining moment because of its women-led negotiating framework.

The agreement marks a significant step forward in India's engagement with New Zealand, opening new avenues for comprehensive economic cooperation. According to the government, the FTA delivers wide-ranging benefits by securing improved market access for Indian goods, expanding opportunities in services and labour mobility, and deepening collaboration in agriculture, investment, and emerging sectors.

One of the most notable features of the agreement is the elimination of duties on 100 per cent of Indian exports to New Zealand. In addition, the FTA includes a USD 20 billion investment commitment spread over 15 years, aimed at strengthening long-term economic and strategic cooperation between the two countries. New Zealand has also offered immediate zero-duty market access on 100 per cent of its tariff lines — covering 8,284 tariff lines from the date of the Agreement's Entry into Force.

Government sources said the benefits of the FTA are expected to be broad-based, positively impacting farmers, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), students, and skilled professionals. Enhanced access to global markets, increased investment flows, and greater mobility opportunities are expected to generate employment and boost innovation across sectors.

PE and VC Investments in India reach 88 pc of 2024 levels, up 4 pc in Nov

MUMBAI

Private equity and venture capital (PE and VC) investments in India increased by 4 per cent in November compared to October in value terms, a report said on Tuesday, adding that in 2025 so far, PE and VC investments have reached 88 per cent of last year's levels.

Investments in the real estate and infrastructure asset class increased nearly fivefold (460 per cent) to $4.2 billion in November 2025 from $747 million in November 2024.

In terms of the number of deals, pure-play investments increased by 1 per cent year-on-year, whereas real estate and infrastructure deals were up by 73 per cent year-on-year, according to the EY-IVCA monthly PE/VC roundup.

November 2025 recorded $5.6 billion in PE/VC investments, a 31 per cent year-on-year increase ($4.3 billion in November 2024) and a 4 per cent month-on-month increase ($5.4 billion in October 2025), said Vivek Soni, Partner and National Leader, Private Equity Services, EY.

The number of deals increased to 113 in November 2025, a 12 per cent year-on-year increase (101 deals in November 2024) and a 4 per cent month-on-month increase (109 deals in October 2025).

In November, buyout deals were the highest at $2.1 billion, followed by startup investments at $1.7 billion. From a sector point of view, real estate was the top sector in November 2025, recording $3.7 billion in investments, followed by infrastructure ($531 million), the report showed.

PE/VC exits stood at $3.2 billion across 23 deals in November 2025, 11 per cent lower than in November 2024 ($3.7 billion). Exits through IPO accounted for 46 per cent of the total exit value ($1.5 billion).

Given the global and domestic headwinds, such as geopolitical tensions, tariff uncertainties under the Trump administration and the Rupee's depreciation, investment activity has been pretty robust, said the report.

India's automotive landscape is experiencing a remarkable transformation, and at the heart of this change lies the rapidly expanding used car market. What was once considered a fragmented, unorganized sector dominated by local dealers and word-of-mouth transactions has evolved into a structured, technology-driven industry that rivals the new car market in both scale and sophistication. This evolution reflects broader economic trends, changing consumer preferences, and the democratization of vehicle ownership across the country.

The Booming Used Car Market in India: A Comprehensive Analysis

The Scale of Growth

The Indian used car market has witnessed exponential growth over the past decade, transforming from a niche segment into a mainstream option for vehicle buyers. The market, which consists of millions of transactions annually, has been growing at a compound annual growth rate that outpaces the new car segment. This growth trajectory has attracted significant investment from venture capitalists, traditional automotive companies, and technology firms alike, all recognizing the immense potential that lies in organizing and digitizing this vast marketplace. The sheer volume of used car transactions in India now exceeds new car sales by a considerable margin, with the ratio hovering around 1.5 to 1.8 used cars sold for every new car. This trend is particularly pronounced in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, where aspirational buyers are increasingly turning to pre-owned vehicles as their entry point into car ownership. The market encompasses vehicles across all segments, from entry-level hatchbacks to premium luxury cars, each catering to different buyer demographics and needs.

The Road Ahead

The future of India's used car market appears exceptionally promising, with several trends shaping its trajectory. **Digital Transformation Acceleration:** Technology will continue reshaping the market with artificial intelligence-powered pricing algorithms, virtual reality showrooms, and blockchain-based vehicle history records. These innovations will further enhance transparency and convenience.

Electric Vehicle Entry: As India's electric vehicle adoption grows, a parallel used electric vehicle market will emerge. This will require new expertise in battery health assessment, charging infrastructure compatibility, and residual value determination.

Rural Market Penetration: As internet connectivity and digital literacy improve in rural areas, organized players will expand their reach beyond urban centers, tapping into the vast potential of smaller towns and villages.

Consolidation and Professionalization: The market will likely witness consolidation with stronger players acquiring smaller ones, leading to improved service standards and operational efficiency across the industry.

Ecosystem Integration: Deeper integration with insurance providers, financiers, service networks, and regulatory bodies will create a seamless ecosystem that addresses all aspects of vehicle ownership.

Market Structure and Key Players

The used car market in India operates through multiple channels, each serving different customer segments and preferences. Online Aggregators and Marketplaces: Digital platforms have emerged as dominant players, offering end-to-end solutions from discovery to purchase. These platforms aggregate listings from individual sellers and dealers, provide standardized inspection services, facilitate financing, and handle documentation. Some operate on a pure marketplace model, connecting buyers and sellers, while others follow an inventory-led approach, purchasing vehicles, refurbishing them, and reselling with warranties. These platforms have brought unprecedented transparency and convenience to the market. Organized Dealerships: Traditional dealerships have evolved significantly, with many adopting professional practices including quality certification, refurbishment, and customer service standards. Authorized dealer networks from original equipment manufacturers have also entered the used car space, leveraging their brand reputation and service infrastructure. These certified pre-owned programs offer buyers the assurance of manufacturer backing, comprehensive inspections, and warranties. Unorganized Sector: Despite the growth of organized players, a substantial portion of used car transactions still occurs through local dealers and individual-to-individual sales. This segment thrives on personal networks, lower prices, and the flexibility of negotiation. However, it lacks the standardization and buyer protection that organized channels provide.

Driving Forces Behind the Surge

Several interconnected factors have contributed to the meteoric rise of India's used car market, creating a perfect storm of conditions that favor pre-owned vehicle purchases.

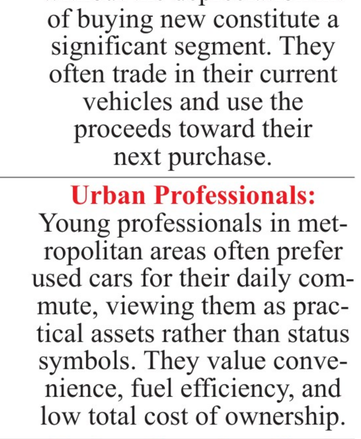
Economic Pragmatism and Value Consciousness: Indian consumers are inherently value-conscious, and the used car market offers compelling economic advantages. A three-year-old car can cost 40-50% less than its brand-new counterpart while offering substantially similar functionality and appearance. This value proposition becomes even more attractive when considering premium or luxury vehicles, where depreciation is steeper. Middle-class families looking to upgrade from two-wheelers or first-time car buyers find used cars financially accessible without the burden of hefty EMIs that new cars entail.

Rising Vehicle Ownership Aspirations: India's growing middle class harbors strong aspirations for vehicle ownership, viewing it as both a practical necessity and a status symbol. However, income levels often don't align with the prices of new cars, especially as manufacturers have been introducing feature-rich vehicles at higher price points. Used cars bridge this aspiration gap, allowing buyers to own brands and models that would otherwise be financially out of reach. A customer with a budget of five lakh rupees can choose between a basic new hatchback or a well-maintained used sedan or even an entry-level premium car, with many opting for the latter to fulfill their lifestyle aspirations.

Technology and Platform Revolution: The emergence of organized online platforms has been transformative for the used car market. Companies have leveraged technology to address the traditional pain points of buying used cars: lack of trust, information asymmetry, and concerns about vehicle quality. These platforms offer standardized inspection reports, warranties, assured buyback options, and transparent pricing, fundamentally changing how consumers perceive and purchase used cars. Virtual showrooms, home test drives, and comprehensive vehicle histories have made the buying process convenient and trustworthy.

Improved Vehicle Quality and Longevity: Modern cars are engineered to last longer and require less maintenance than their predecessors. Indian roads and infrastructure have also improved significantly, reducing vehicle wear and tear. A well-maintained five or six-year-old car can easily serve reliably for another five to seven years, making it a sound investment. Additionally, better service networks and readily available spare parts ensure that even older vehicles can be maintained cost-effectively.

Financing Accessibility: Banks and non-banking financial companies have recognized the potential of the used car segment and have developed specialized financing products with competitive interest rates. Earlier, securing a loan for a used car was challenging, with higher interest rates and stringent conditions. Today, buyers can access financing with minimal documentation, attractive interest rates, and flexible repayment terms, making used car purchases as convenient as buying new vehicles.



Consumer Demographics and Preferences

The used car buyer in India represents a diverse demographic with varying motivations and requirements.

First-time Buyers: Many used car purchasers are first-time car owners graduating from two-wheelers. They prioritize affordability, fuel efficiency, and low maintenance costs. Compact hatchbacks and entry-level sedans are popular choices for this segment.

Upgraders: Existing car owners looking to upgrade to larger or premium vehicles without the depreciation hit of buying new constitute a significant segment. They often trade in their current vehicles and use the proceeds toward their next purchase.

Urban Professionals: Young professionals in metropolitan areas often prefer used cars for their daily commute, viewing them as practical assets rather than status symbols. They value convenience, fuel efficiency, and low total cost of ownership.

Budget-Conscious Families: Families seeking reliable transportation on limited budgets find used cars ideal. They prioritize space, safety features, and reliability over the latest technology or design.

Challenges and Concerns

Despite its impressive growth, the used car market faces several challenges that need addressing for sustained development. Trust Deficit: Although organized players have improved transparency, concerns about vehicle condition, accident history, and odometer tampering persist. Buyers worry about hidden defects that may surface after purchase, leading to unexpected expenses.

Pricing Transparency: Determining the fair market value of a used car remains challenging for average buyers. While online platforms provide indicative pricing, the actual value depends on numerous factors including condition, service history, and local demand-supply dynamics.

Documentation and Legal Hassles: Transferring vehicle ownership involves bureaucratic procedures that can be time-consuming and complex. Issues like pending challans, hypothecation clearances, and RC transfers require careful navigation.

Limited Warranty Coverage: Unlike new cars that come with manufacturer warranties, used cars typically offer limited or no warranty protection. Even when platforms provide warranties, they may have numerous exclusions and conditions.

Quality Assurance: Standardizing inspection and refurbishment processes across the industry remains a challenge. The quality of checks varies significantly between organized and unorganized players.

Conclusion

India's used car market stands at an exciting juncture, having transitioned from an informal, trust-deficit segment to an organized, technology-enabled industry. The convergence of economic factors, digital innovation, and changing consumer attitudes has created robust momentum that shows no signs of slowing. For millions of Indian families, used cars represent not just transportation but the fulfillment of mobility dreams and aspirations. As the market matures, addressing challenges around trust, quality assurance, and standardization will be crucial. The players who succeed will be those who can balance technology with human touch, efficiency with reliability, and growth with sustainability. For consumers, the expanding used car market offers unprecedented choice, value, and accessibility, democratizing vehicle ownership across income segments and geographies. The used car market is no longer the automotive industry's poor cousin but a dynamic, vital sector that reflects India's pragmatic approach to consumption and its aspirational journey toward greater prosperity. As infrastructure improves, disposable incomes rise, and digital adoption deepens, the used car market will continue to be a barometer of India's economic vitality and consumer confidence, driving millions toward their automotive dreams one pre-owned vehicle at a time.

AIFF Committee Prioritises Women's Teams Ahead Asian Cups

NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Women's Football Committee on Sunday held an important meeting at the Football House in New Delhi. The session was chaired by Valanka Alemao, and attended by AIFF Deputy Secretary General M. Satyanarayan, Deputy Chairperson Tsering Angmo, and members Tababi Devi, Chitra Gangadharan, and Shabana Rabbani.

The Committee reviewed preparations for India's senior, U20, and U17 women's teams ahead of their respective AFC Women's Asian Cup campaigns. According to AIFF, officials examined recent team performances, challenges faced by players, coaching staff, and support personnel to identify areas needing improvement.

AIFF Women's Football Committee reviewed team preparations, coaching development, player safety, and funding plans ahead of upcoming AFC Asian Cups.

One key topic discussed was the development of women coaches. Members proposed programmes to strengthen coaching support and initiatives to showcase their work on social media. This step aims to inspire more women to take leadership roles in Indian football.

Player safety was highlighted as a top priority. The Committee suggested measures to create a secure and inclusive environment for athletes across all age groups. Ensuring that players feel safe both on and off the field is seen as vital for their growth and performance.

Financial planning and budget allocations were also addressed during the meeting. Members stressed the need to provide sufficient resources to support training, competitions, and other development programmes for women's football.

The Committee concluded by emphasizing a long-term vision for strengthening women's football in India. With the Asian Cups approaching, the focus will remain on competitive readiness, safety, and promoting the growth of female talent at all levels.

The AIFF hopes that these efforts will not only improve the national teams' performances but also encourage wider participation of women in football across the country.

Manager Protects NEERAJ GOYAT Backstage Clash

DUBAI

Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat's post-fight celebrations at Misfits Boxing 23 were disrupted by a heated backstage altercation with opponent Anthony Taylor. The incident occurred in the medical room shortly after Goyat's unanimous decision victory on December 20, when Taylor confronted him aggressively.

What began as a handshake attempt quickly escalated, with Taylor hurling a water bottle at Goyat.

Manager Vipin Gulia immediately stepped in, shielding his fighter as security personnel separated the two. "My first responsibility is always Neeraj's safety. This was not a sporting exchange—it was someone who couldn't accept defeat trying to provoke my fighter," Gulia said. Goyat had dominated the six-round contest with sharp footwork and combination punching, earning judges' scores of 59-55, 58-56, and 60-54. Eyewitnesses reported that Goyat declined Taylor's handshake and made dismissive remarks, prompting Taylor's angry reaction.

Highlighting the importance of safety, Gulia stressed that promoters must ensure secure recovery areas for fighters. "Proper security protocols and restricted access are necessities, not luxuries," he noted. Despite the confrontation, Goyat was unharmed and remains focused on his rising international career. His latest win improves his professional record to 20-4-2, and discussions are already underway for his next global appearance.

Misfits Boxing has yet to release an official statement regarding the security breach, but the incident underscores the need for stronger backstage safeguards in high-profile events.

Soorma Hockey Club Retains Leaders For Upcoming HIL Season

NEW DELHI

The Soorma Hockey Club (SHC) announced on Sunday that it will retain the same leadership for both its men's and women's teams in the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL) season. Harmanpreet Singh will continue to lead the men's side, while senior goalkeeper Savita Punia and midfielder Salima Tete will serve as co-captains of the women's team.

Harmanpreet Singh, known for his commanding presence in defence and world-class drag flicks, played a key role in SHC's third-place finish last season. As the captain of the Indian National Hockey Team, he brings valuable experience and calm under pressure, inspiring teammates to perform at their best. Speaking on his leadership, Harmanpreet said he feels confident in the team's growth and believes they have the right balance to challenge for top honours.

On the women's side, Savita Punia's sharp reflexes and composure, combined with Salima Tete's agility and creativity, were crucial in securing last season's runners-up finish. Both co-captains emphasised teamwork, trust, and building a positive team culture. Savita said their focus is on empowering every player, while Salima added that lessons from the previous season will guide them in striving for the trophy this year.

SHC's women will start their campaign on December 29 against Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Stadium in Ranchi. The men will face the same team on January 4 at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai. The men's tournament will be hosted across Chennai, Ranchi, and Bhubaneshwar.

Under Head Coaches Philippe Goldberg and Jude Menezes, the club is aiming for a strong performance in both men's and women's HIL competitions, relying on experienced leadership and a committed squad.

Junior Star Sunil PB Aims To Extend Karnataka's Hockey Legacy

NEW DELHI

Karnataka, a state with a proud hockey tradition, has produced legends like MP Ganesh, MM Somaya, AB Subbiah, Ashish Ballal, Arjun Halappa, and Rio 2016 Olympians Raghunath VR, SK Uthappa, Nikkin Thimmaiah, and SV Sunil.

Now, a new name is emerging—PB Sunil, who recently shone at the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup, helping India secure a bronze medal.

Hailing from Anavatti village in Shivamogga district, Sunil began his journey at the DYES Sports hostel as a 10-year-old. With his parents working as daily wage labourers, his rise in hockey has brought hope to his family. Drafted into the Vedanta Kalinga Lancers for Rs 2 lakh, Sunil is determined to prove himself in the Hockey India League. "The Junior World Cup was a dream come true, but now I am focused on performing for the Lancers," he said.

Sunil acknowledges the responsibility of carrying forward Karnataka's hockey legacy. Playing alongside Olympic champions Arthur Van Doren and Alexander Hendrickx excites him, as he hopes to learn defensive skills and observe their professionalism both on and off the field.

His motivation is deeply personal—success in hockey could improve his family's financial situation. "Livelihood is not easy, but I am optimistic that good performances will secure a job and better conditions for my family," he said. The Kalinga Lancers will open their campaign against Ranchi Royals on January 4, with Sunil eager to make his mark.

Punjab, Salute, Army Boys Shine In Sub Junior Hockey

SURAT

The 3rd Hockey India Sub Junior Men Academy Championship 2025 – Zone A & B began on a high note in Surat, with Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy, Salute Hockey Academy, Sail Hockey Academy, Army Boys Sports Company, and S.G.P.C. Hockey Academy all registering victories on the opening day at the Veer Narmad South Gujarat University Hockey Ground.

In Pool C, Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy dominated Sports Authority of Gujarat – Hockey Academy with an emphatic 11-1 win. Varinder Singh and Karan Kumar both scored hat-tricks, while Arjandeep Singh and Arshdeep Singh added braces. Ankit also found the net, while Alfesh Rajakbhai Musagara scored the lone goal for Gujarat. Salute Hockey Academy also impressed in Pool C, defeating Cheema Hockey Academy 7-1. Saurabh Kumar struck a hat-trick, supported by goals from Yogender Saini, Arun, Sunny, and Pankaj. Saihbaz Singh had earlier opened the scoring for Cheema. In Pool B, Sail Hockey Academy overcame HAR Hockey Academy 3-1, with Bikash Kaetha, Arun Lakra, and captain Dinesh Barla scoring.

Purdy's Three Touchdowns Power 49ers In Early Shootout

SAN FRANCISCO

Quarterback Brock Purdy delivered a commanding first-half performance as the San Francisco 49ers surged ahead against the Indianapolis Colts in a high-scoring contest. By midway through the second quarter, Purdy had already thrown three touchdown passes, showcasing sharp accuracy and composure. He first connected with Demarcus Robinson on a 22-yard strike, followed by a short 2-yard pass to Christian McCaffrey. Purdy then restored the 49ers' lead at 21-14 with an 11-yard touchdown to tight end George Kittle. Completing 7 of his 9 passes for 89 yards, Purdy led San Francisco to touchdown drives of 69, 26, and 69 yards, capitalising on every possession.The Colts, however, refused to back down. Veteran quarterback Philip Rivers kept them competitive, finding wide receiver Alec Pierce for two touchdowns on drives of 72 and 66 yards.

Formula 1 2025 Becomes Landmark Year For Indian Motorsport

NEW DELHI

Formula 1's 2025 season has proven to be a turning point for Indian motorsport, with the country's fanbase soaring to 78.8 million. The year was marked by thrilling performances, including Kush Maini's resilient victory in Monaco and Arvid Lindblad's rapid rise to the F1 grid. The Drivers' Championship battle went down to the wire, ending with Lando Norris clinching his maiden title in the most competitive finale in 15 years, while McLaren returned to the top after a long drought.

Globally, F1 attracted a record 6.7 million fans to races, while India's growing viewership reinforced its importance in the sport's worldwide strategy. FanCode's broadcast deal extension through 2028 ensures Indian fans remain closely connected as local drivers prepare for the 2026 season.

Maini, despite mechanical setbacks, played a crucial role in Invicta Racing's Formula 2 Constructors' triumph, highlighted by his Sprint win at Monaco. After strong post-season testing with Alpine, he now joins ART Grand Prix, aiming to break into F1. Lindblad, a Red Bull Junior Team prodigy with Indian roots, impressed in 2025 and will debut with Racing Bulls in 2026, giving Indian fans a new hero to cheer.

F1's popularity continues to surge, surpassing the NBA with 11.4% more fans and leading global sports leagues in social media engagement. Off the track, F1 The Movie grossed $630 million worldwide, expanding the sport's youthful fanbase.

With sustainable fuels, new power units, and Audi and Cadillac joining the grid, the 2026 season promises a new era—one where Indian talent shines brighter than ever.

Liverpool's Isak Out Indefinitely After Ankle Surgery

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool striker Alexander Isak faces an indefinite spell on the sidelines after undergoing surgery to repair a broken ankle and fibula.

The Swedish forward, who joined the club this season for a British-record $170 million, sustained the injury during a tackle by Micky van de Ven while scoring in Saturday's 2-1 win over Tottenham. Liverpool confirmed the operation in a statement, noting that Isak's rehabilitation will continue at the AXA Training Centre, with no timeline yet for his return. The setback adds to a turbulent season for the 26-year-old, who missed preseason due to a delayed transfer from Newcastle and later struggled with a groin injury.

He has made 10 starts and scored three goals so far for the reigning Premier League champions.

Isak's absence also raises concerns for Sweden ahead of their European World Cup playoff semifinal against Ukraine in March.

Manager Arne Slot now faces a shortage in attack, with Mohamed Salah away at the Africa Cup of Nations. The responsibility will fall on Hugo Ekitike, who has been in fine form, netting five goals in his last three league appearances, including one against Tottenham.

Liverpool, meanwhile, have regained momentum after a poor run earlier in the season. A six-game unbeaten streak, capped by wins over Brighton and Tottenham, has lifted them to fifth place, level on points with Chelsea.

Liverpool striker Alexander Isak is sidelined indefinitely after ankle surgery, leaving Arne Slot short in attack as Salah departs, with Ekitike set to shoulder scoring responsibility.

ROHIT SHARMA recalls confidence boost from historic 2007 triumph

NEW DELHI

India's T20 World Cup-winning captain Rohit Sharma has fondly recalled being part of the squad that lifted the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup in 2007, saying the victory gave the young team belief that success would continue. Rohit, who was only 20 years old at the time, said the triumph shaped the mindset of several players starting their international careers. Speaking on JioHotstar, Rohit said he was in his first year with the national side when India stunned stronger teams to win the title. He explained that lifting the trophy made the players feel they could keep winning at the highest level of the game.

Rohit played a key role in India's campaign, scoring 88 runs in three matches. His unbeaten half-century against South Africa helped India stay alive in the tournament, while his quick 30 off 16 balls in the final against Pakistan proved vital in a tense finish. India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by five runs in a thrilling final held in Johannesburg. Both teams entered the final after topping their respective groups. India beat Australia by 15 runs in the semi-final, while Pakistan overcame New Zealand by six wickets to book their place. Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar praised then captain MS Dhoni for his calm leadership, saying he handled pressure better than the opposing captain. Dhoni later became the only captain to win all three major ICC white-ball trophies, earning praise for his composure and match-winning decisions. The former skipper's legacy from that era remains influential, with the 2007 triumph still remembered as a turning point in India's limited-overs history that inspired future generations of Indian cricketers.

Sharjah Warriorz Keep Playoff Dreams Alive With Win

SHARJAH

Sharjah Warriorz boosted their playoff hopes in the International League T20 (ILT20) with a confident victory over Abu Dhabi Knight Riders in Match No. 25. The team showed composure under pressure, guided by young batter James Rew, who played a steady and unbeaten knock of 42 runs from 29 balls. His innings included four boundaries and one six, ensuring the Warriorz chased down the target with control.

The match was not without challenges. Abu Dhabi's Sunil Narine bowled brilliantly, giving away only 14 runs in his four overs and picking up a wicket. His tight spell tested the Warriorz, but the batters held firm, waiting patiently before attacking later in the innings. Reflecting on the chase, Rew praised Narine's bowling and explained the team's plan to survive his spell before targeting other bowlers.

He credited captain Sikandar for guiding him with powerful shots that eased the run rate. Rew focused on running hard between the wickets and keeping the ball on the ground, avoiding risky big hits. Rew highlighted the importance of the win, noting the team must secure three consecutive victories to reach the playoffs. "We are taking it one game at a time," he said, adding that the group's support has made his experience enjoyable.

With this crucial win, Sharjah Warriorz now turn their attention to their next clash against Dubai Capitals, aiming to continue their momentum and keep their playoff dreams alive.

NZC Adds Bonus Point Rule To Women's Super Smash

WELLINGTON

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has announced a new points system for the upcoming Women's Super Smash season, aimed at encouraging higher-scoring matches and aligning domestic cricket with international standards. The tournament begins on December 26 at Seddon Park, where Northern Brave will face Auckland Aces and Hearts.

Under the revised rules, teams can earn one bonus point either by scoring 150 runs or more in an innings, or by achieving a run rate at least 1.25 times higher than the opposition in the second innings. Bonus points will not be awarded in the elimination or grand finals.The change follows NZC's analysis of global cricket trends, which show rising scoring rates and boundary percentages in T20 matches. WHITE FERNS head coach Ben Sawyer welcomed the move, saying it would reward aggressive batting and proactive bowling. "It's an exciting addition. We hope it encourages teams to play in line with international standards and prepares players for high-scoring contests at next year's T20 World Cup," Sawyer said. Sawyer acknowledged the system is not a complete solution, stressing that skill, tactics, and coaching remain vital to improving batting standards.

Sharjah Warriorz edge Knight Riders in tense low-scoring ILT20

ABU DHABI

Sharjah Warriorz held their nerve to register a thrilling four wicket win over Abu Dhabi Knight Riders in a low scoring International League T20 match at the Zayed Cricket Stadium on Monday, keeping their playoff hopes alive this season.

The victory took the Warriorz to six points, setting up a close fight for the remaining playoff spots with two matches still to play. The contest went down to the final ball, highlighting the pressure faced by both sides. Earlier, Sharjah's bowlers delivered a superb performance after being put in to field.

Taskin Ahmed and Wasim Akram ripped

through the Knight Riders' top order, reducing them to a shocking 10 for four inside four overs. Taskin removed Phil Salt and Alex Hales, while Wasim dismissed Brandon McMullen and claimed a historic wicket maiden. Sherfane Rutherford tried to rescue the innings with a fighting 44 off 36 balls. He added useful runs with Unmukt Chand, who scored 24, but regular wickets ensured Abu Dhabi were restricted to 134 for nine. Adil Rashid was the pick of the bowlers with three crucial wickets at the death.

Chasing 135, Sharjah also found the conditions tough. Early wickets fell, but Tom Kohler Cadmore steadied the innings with 30 runs. Sunil Narine bowled tightly to apply pressure during the middle overs.

The chase was eventually anchored by James Rew, who remained unbeaten on 42 off 29 balls. Sikandar Raza supported him with 28, and the pair added a vital partnership.

Despite a tense final over, Rew and Adil Rashid guided Sharjah to victory on the last ball, sealing an important win in the tournament.

Delhi HC Protects Gavaskar's Personality Rights Against Misuse

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has granted interim relief to former India cricket captain Sunil Gavaskar, safeguarding his personality and publicity rights. Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora directed social media platforms and e-commerce sites to remove unauthorised content and merchandise misusing Gavaskar's name, image, or likeness within 72 hours.

The order requires platforms such as Meta and X Corp to take down infringing URLs that falsely attribute statements to Gavaskar. If users fail to comply, the platforms must disable access to the content. Similarly, e-commerce sites have been instructed to delist products sold under Gavaskar's name without authorisation if sellers do not remove them within the stipulated time.

The injunction came in response to Gavaskar's suit alleging misuse of his identity across social media and online marketplaces. He highlighted fabricated quotes and fake autographed items being circulated without his consent.

Earlier, the court had asked Gavaskar to provide offending URLs to Google, Meta, and X, directing them to act under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

BCCI Doubles Match Fees For Domestic Women Cricketers

NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a major pay hike for domestic women cricketers, increasing match fees from Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 per day. This decision comes in the wake of India's historic triumph at the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup, where Harmanpreet Kaur led the team to their maiden global title after defeating South Africa in a thrilling final. The revised structure benefits not only the playing XI but also reserve players, who will now earn Rs 25,000 per day, up from Rs 10,000. This move provides greater financial security and recognition for the wider squad, marking a significant step forward for women's cricket in India.

The pay boost reflects the growing stature of women's cricket, which has seen transformative changes in recent years. Under Jay Shah's tenure as BCCI secretary from 2019 to 2024, the board introduced bold reforms, including pay equality between male and female cricketers, grassroots investment, and the launch of the Women's Premier League (WPL). The WPL has given Indian and international players a competitive platform, wider audience reach, and financial stability. The latest hike underscores BCCI's commitment to supporting women cricketers and building on the momentum of India's World Cup success.

DEEPTI SHARMA
Becomes World's Top T20I Bowler

NEW DELHI

Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma has reached a career milestone by becoming the world's number one ranked T20I bowler for the first time. Her disciplined spell of 1/20 in four overs against Sri Lanka in Vizag helped India secure an eight-wicket win and earned her five rating points, pushing her just one point ahead of Australia's Annabel Sutherland, who had held the top spot since August.

This achievement highlights Deepti's consistency and impact in India's bowling attack. At 28, she now leads the global rankings, giving India a major boost in the ongoing series.

Meanwhile, South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt reclaimed the number one position in ODI batting, overtaking India's Smriti Mandhana. Wolvaardt's back-to-back centuries against Ireland sealed a 3-0 series win for the Proteas and lifted her to a career-high rating. Mandhana now sits second in the ODI batting chart.

Other Indian players also made notable gains. Arundhati Reddy climbed five places to 36th among T20I bowlers, while Jemimah Rodrigues rose five spots to ninth in T20I batting after her unbeaten half-century against Sri Lanka earned her Player of the Match. She joins Mandhana (third) and Shafali Verma (10th) in the top 10.

Cummins Ruled Out Of Ashes, World Cup Doubt Remains

MELBOURNE

Australia will continue their Ashes campaign without captain Pat Cummins, who has been sidelined for the rest of the series due to a back injury. Head coach Andrew McDonald confirmed that Cummins, after playing just one Test, will not return, with selectors prioritising his long-term fitness. Cummins had flagged his absence after the Adelaide Test, and McDonald later clarified that the decision was made to avoid further risk. "We've won the series, and that was the goal. To jeopardise him long-term is not something we want to do, and Pat is comfortable with that," McDonald said.

The injury also casts doubt over Cummins' participation in the upcoming T20 World Cup in February. McDonald admitted the situation is "quite grey," noting that Cummins will undergo a check-in scan before any decision is made. "We're hopeful, but I can't really say if he'll be there or not," he added. Cummins was diagnosed with a lumbar stress reaction after the West Indies tour but returned strongly in the third Ashes Test, taking six wickets to secure an 82-run win and clinch the series for Australia.

With Cummins unavailable, Steve Smith will lead the side, while seamer Jhye Richardson has been drafted into the squad for the fourth Test. Richardson last featured in the 2021-22 Ashes.

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